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Telangana Today

FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

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HYDERABAD EDITION
Vol. 8 | No. 280 | Pages 12

NATION | PAGE 07

Surrender or face action, Amit Shah to naxals

WORLD | PAGE 09

Israel strike kills top Hezbollah leader

12 killed, many injured as Tel Aviv launches rare strike on Beirut

SPORT | PAGE 10

India on top, stretch lead against Bangladesh

In a nutshell

Eight killed in Maha road mishap

JALNA: At least eight persons were killed and more than 16 others injured when a passenger bus and a fruit-laden truck rammed into each other on the Beed-Jalna Road, here on Friday, an official said. According to Ambad Police Station in-charge Police Inspector Satish S Jadhav, the incident occurred at 8 am near Mathtanda village when the MSRTC bus was heading towards Jalna from Beed. IANS

Manipur Minister's PA abducted

IMPHAL: Unidentified men abducted the personal assistant of Manipur Consumer Affairs Minister L Susindro near his residence in Imphal. The motive behind the abduction of S Somorendro (43) remains unclear. No group claimed responsibility. This comes a day after armed assailants fired at least five rounds at the residence of former chief secretary Oinam Nabakishore in Bishnupur district. PTI

SC's YouTube channel hacked

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court's YouTube channel was hacked on Friday and showing videos promoting a cryptocurrency developed by US-based company Ripple Labs. "This is to inform all concerned that the YouTube channel of Supreme Court of India has been taken down. The services on YouTube channel of Supreme Court of India will be resumed shortly," a notice posted on apex court website said. PTI

WB jr doctors to resume duties

KOLKATA: Junior doctors agitating over the RG Kar incident called off their 'cease work' on Friday, announcing partial resumption of duties entailing attending essential services in state-run hospitals from Saturday. The agitating medics withdrew 'cease work' after holding a march to the CBI office in Salt Lake from the State Health Department's headquarters.

REPORT PAGE 8

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 105
Retail live	Rs. 127
With skin	Rs. 184
Skinless	Rs. 210
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 72

Bitter fight over Tirupati laddu

TTD's sacredness damaged

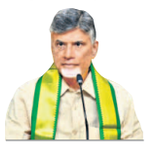
AMARAVATI

Keeping up the heat on his party's main rival YSRCP over the Tirupati laddu controversy, TDP supremo and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu accused previous YSRCP government of damaging the sacredness of TTD by procuring cheap, 'adulterated' ghee to prepare the famous sweet.

He also indicated he would take action on the matter, asking if should he spare people when "unpardonable mistakes" are committed. Naidu said people are saying that their sentiments were hurt due to the alleged adulteration of ghee used in laddu during the previous YSR Congress government. He alleged the previous regime bought inferior quality ghee at cheaper prices affecting the quality of Laddu and damaged the sacredness of TTD.

"Today we have changed the ghee supplier. We started purchasing Nandini brand ghee from Karnataka. People are saying their sentiments were hurt (following allegations of adulterated ghee and presence of animal fat in Tirupati laddus). When the sentiments were hurt, should I spare them (culprits) when unpardonable mistakes were committed," the Chief Minister asked. PTI

> The previous regime bought inferior quality ghee at cheaper prices affecting the quality of Laddu
> — N CHANDRABABU NAIDU, ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER



Naidu using god for political gains

HYDERABAD

YSRCP chief YS Jaganmohan Reddy hit out at Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu over the ghee adulteration in Tirumala, saying the latter was trying to divert public attention from his 100 days of rule.

He said Naidu is such a person who will use god also for political gains. "This is a diversion politics. On one hand, people are expressing their anger at Naidu's hundred days rule. They are demanding what happened to their "Super six" (poll promises). In order to divert people's attention, this concocted story," he said. The ghee adulteration allegations are atrocious, he said, and asked is it fair to play with sentiments of crores of devotees across world. All samples, tests and results mentioned in lab test reports as evidence occurred under the NDA government, he said. Selecting the ghee supplier is a routine process every six months by TTD. It has been going on for decades together, nothing new, he said. During an NDA legislative party meeting on September 18, TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu claimed that the previous YSRCP government did not even spare TTD. PTI

> This is a diversion politics. The allegations are atrocious. Is it fair to play with devotees sentiments?
> — YS JAGANMOHAN REDDY, YSRCP PRESIDENT

Time for 'Sanatana Rakshana'

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said on Friday that the State government is committed to taking stringent action against those involved in the use of ghee mixed with animal fat in Tirupathi laddu.

Reacting to a post by an organisation's Hindu IT Cell demanding action against the culprits, Pawan Kalyan assured that stringent action would be taken. "We are all deeply disturbed by the findings of animal fat (fish oil, pork fat and beef fat) mixed in Tirupathi Balaji Prasad. Many questions to be answered by the TTD board constituted by YSRCP govt then. Our govt is committed to taking stringent action possible," he posted.

He also stated that this throws light on many issues surrounding the desecration of temples, its land issues and other religious and faith-based practices. "Maybe the time has come to constitute a 'Sanatana Dharma Rakshana Board' at a national level to look into all the issues related to temples in the entire Bharat. A debate has to happen at a national level by all the policymakers, religious heads, judiciary, citizens, media and all others in their respective domains," he said. IANS

> Time has come to constitute a 'Sanatana Dharma Rakshana Board' at a national level to look into all the issues related to temples
> — PAWAN KALYAN, AP DEPUTY CM

YSRC MOVES HC, SEEKS CBI PROBE

HYDERABAD: The row over animal fat in the Tirupati laddu took a new turn on Friday with the YSRCP approaching the Andhra Pradesh High Court to seek a probe into the allegations. The YSRCP lawyers mentioned before a High Court Bench the allegation made by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu about the presence of animal fat in Tirumala laddu and requested an inquiry by a sitting judge or a High Court-appointed committee. The High Court, however, suggested filing a PIL by Wednesday and the arguments will be heard on that day. The laddu is given as prasadam to the devotees at the famous Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati, which is run by TTD, a body nominated by the state government. IANS

SC INTERVENTION SOUGHT INTO ISSUE

NEW DELHI: A letter petition has been addressed to CJI DY Chandrachud seeking the urgent intervention of the Supreme Court into the alleged presence of animal fat in ghee used in making Tirumala laddus. "Recent investigations have revealed a disturbing truth that non-vegetarian products, specifically bird meat (kolis), were used in the preparation of prasadam during the tenure of the previous Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Trust management," said the plea filed through advocate Satyam Singh, adding that this act not only violates the fundamental tenets of Hindu religious customs, but also strikes at the very core of our religious practices and beliefs.

(REPORT PAGE 7)

EO VOWS TO ENSURE SANCTITY OF LADDU

HYDERABAD: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Executive Officer J Syamala Rao on Friday said there would not be any compromise on the quality of ghee used for making laddu prasadams and stressed the need to protect the sanctity and divinity of Tirumala Divyakshetram and laddu prasadam. Addressing media persons in Tirumala on Friday, the Executive Officer said there were five suppliers — Premier Agri Foods, Kriparam Diary, Vaishnavi, Sri Parag Milk and AR Dairy — for supply of ghee to TTD. The rates they quoted were between Rs 320 and Rs 411 a kg. However, prima facie, these rates were not viable for supplying pure ghee, he said.

(REPORT PAGE 7)

UNION MINISTERS FOR THOROUGH PROBE

NEW DELHI: Union Ministers, including Food Minister Pralhad Joshi, on Friday called for an investigation into allegations made by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu regarding the use of animal fat in Tirupati laddus. "Whatever the Andhra Chief Minister has said is a matter of serious concern. A detailed enquiry is required and the culprit should be punished," he said. Union Health Minister Nadda said he had spoken to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and sought a report on the issue. Meanwhile, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar said a thorough investigation should be conducted into the allegations. He wrote a letter to the to AP Chief Minister in this regard. PTI

Uncertainty grips stalled PRLIS works

PRLIS is designed to provide 7.15 tmc water for drinking purposes to over 1,220 villages across six districts in its first phase.

PS DILEEP
Hyderabad

The Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), which was holding hope for the water-starved southern districts of Telangana, is now facing an uncertain future.

Works have been at a standstill for the past 12 months. The project saw its first pumping facility inaugurated by then Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao on September 16 last year.

The mega pumping unit, commissioned on the occasion lifting 3,200 cusecs of water from the backwaters of the Srisailam project, is today left submerged along with four other pumping units of same capacity. Dewatering process is expected to take a couple of months. The assessment of damage to the infrastructure and rehabilitation plans can be thought of only after the completion of the dewatering process that remained an arduous task waiting for machinery of higher capacity.

PRLIS is designed to provide 7.15 tmc water for drinking purposes to over 1,220 villages across six districts in its first phase. The second phase aims to meet irrigation needs with 73 tmc of water, pending necessary clearances. The project's first stage successfully pumped water from the Srisailam project into the Anjanagiri reservoir signalling an end to the water travails of the targeted villages.

> Project saw its first pumping facility inaugurated by then CM K Chandrashekhar Rao on September 16 last year

Further sanctions

The notification of the Assembly elections immediately after the inauguration of the first pumping unit of the project, stalled further sanctions and inaugurations. Despite clearing legal hurdles for the drinking water component, the project has not advanced. It is alleged that the government was deliberately stalling the project to undermine the previous administration's achievements.

(SEE PAGE 2)

TG facilitates legal sanctity to HYDRAA, gives freehand

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Telangana Cabinet has facilitated legal sanctity and extended a freehand to Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) for the protection of lakes, reservoirs and nalas within Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits.

I&PR Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said rules were amended to provide freehand to HYDRAA. All the rights that were applicable for municipalities, corporations and other departments have been incorporated to HYDRAA, he said at a post-Cabinet meeting press conference on Friday.

The HYDRAA jurisdiction covers 27 urban local bodies and 51 Gram Panchayats that have been merged into different municipal bodies till ORR.

"The freedom enjoyed by different departments will be applicable to HYDRAA as well, and rules and regulations have been amended to this effect," he said. However, he did not disclose as to how the Cabinet entrusted legal sanctity to HYDRAA. Similarly, as per HYDRAA requirements, 169 officers and 946 outsourcing staff from different departments would be deputed to work under it, he said.

> Freedom enjoyed by different departments will be applicable to HYDRAA as well, says I&PR Minister Ponguleti Srinivas

Rs 5 meal scheme in govt hospitals diluted

In 2022, the then BRS government launched the initiative in all major tertiary hospitals in Hyderabad.

M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

The coverage of the Rs 5 per meal scheme to attendants of patients at government hospitals in Hyderabad has gradually shrunk in the last eight to nine months. Earlier, the initiative covered anywhere between 18,000 and 20,000 attendants per day. However, the number has now gradually come down to 4,000 to 5,000 patient attendants per day.

The gradual drop in coverage of the Rs 5 per meal initiative aimed at providing an affordable and healthier alternative to attendants of patients comes in the wake of the State government's lack of support and eventually curtailment of existing healthcare welfare initiatives, including KCR Kits for pregnant women and access to special nutritional kits to pregnant women with anaemia. Senior officials familiar with the issue said that the drop in the coverage of patient attendants who are availing this facility has been steady for the past nine months.

(SEE PAGE 2)

Left in lurch

- Earlier, the scheme covered **18,000-20,000** attendants a day
- At present, number stands at **4,000-5,000**
- BRS govt implemented it in **18 hospitals** with annual cost of **Rs 38.66 cr**
- COST PER MEAL: **Rs 26.25** (BRS govt chipped in **Rs 21.25 and attendants Rs 5)**

> THERE ARE INSTANCES WHERE ATTENDANTS THEMSELVES HAVE MADE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS TO GET FOOD FROM THEIR RELATIVES STAYING IN HYDERABAD. SO, THE NAMES OF THE PATIENT ATTENDANTS, FOR WHOM THE FOOD HAS TO BE COOKED, ARE NOT FORWARDED TO THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
> — SENIOR HEALTH OFFICIAL

K'taka BJP MLA Munirathna arrested for rape

BENGALURU

BJP MLA N Munirathna was arrested in connection with a case of rape, sexual harassment and criminal intimidation registered against him, police said.

Along with him, six others have also been booked in the case following the complaint of a 40-year-old woman who alleged that the incident took place at a private resort within the Kaggalipura police station's jurisdiction, they said. His arrest came a day after a special court granted conditional bail to the MLA who was arrested on various charges, including using casteist slurs. PTI

One should not transgress limits, SC on CM's remarks

NEW DELHI

It is expected that all three wings of the Constitution show mutual respect for each other's functioning as "unwarranted comments" bring friction unnecessarily, the Supreme Court said.

Observing that a fair criticism of judgments is always welcome but one should not "transgress the limits", a Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan said one should be careful enough while making comments about orders passed by courts. The court's observations came while dealing with the issue pertaining to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's comments on the top court granting bail to BRS leader K Kavitha in cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise scam. The Bench, while taking note that Revanth Reddy has tendered an apology before the court, said it does not wish to proceed further on the issue.

"Such unwarranted comments unnecessarily bring about a friction," the Supreme Court said. PTI

DON'T INTERFERE, APEX COURT TO REVANTH IN CASH-FOR-VOTE CASE

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court directed Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy not to interfere in anyway with the functioning of prosecution in the proceedings of the 2015 cash-for-vote case, in which he is one of the accused. While refusing to transfer the trial in the case from Telangana to Bhopal, the Bench said the director general of ACB would not report to the Chief Minister regarding the prosecution of the case. The apex court passed the order while hearing a plea filed by BRS MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy and three others who had sought a transfer of trial in the case from Telangana to Bhopal. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Amended IT Rules on fake news unconstitutional'

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday held as unconstitutional and struck down the amended Information Technology (IT) Rules which sought to identify fake and false content on social media against the government.

The matter was assigned to Justice AS Chandurkar as 'tie-breaker judge', after a division Bench in January delivered a split verdict on the petitions challenging the amended IT rules. Justice Chandurkar on Friday held that the rules violated constitutional provisions.

(REPORT PAGE 7)

Out on bail, rape accused shoots dead victim in UP

SAMBHAL

A rape accused, out on bail, shot dead his victim here, police said, adding that the man along with another person were detained. The main accused, Rinku 20, raped the girl and a case was registered against him in Ghaziabad police station in February. He came out of the jail on bail earlier this month, police said. According to victim's family, the girl was shot dead while she was returning home with her brother. PTI

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

Max. tem: 34.2°C
Min. tem: 24.2°C
RH: 65%
Rainfall: Nil

'Maps Unfolded' brings maps to life

Ankon Mitra's exhibition at Kalakriti Gallery blends art, science and history

SRUTHI KURUGANTI
HYDERABAD

Deep blue circular structures welcome visitors at the entrance of Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad, offering a glimpse into 'Maps Unfolded', an intricate showcase by architect, sculptor, and origami artist Ankon Mitra.

Curated by gallery owner Prshant Lahoti, the exhibit blends art, science, and history through nearly 100 artworks inspired by maps.

The concept originated when Prshant, who possesses a rich collection of maps, proposed the idea of artworks centred on maps. "I wanted to marry archival material with contemporary art to make it more interesting," he says, noting how traditional maps and origami overlap in their folding and preservation.

Ankon, who was excited by the idea, explains his creative process, "Through this collaboration, I wanted to see if we could design artworks that spark wider interest, not limited to map nerds." His goal was to create three-dimensional pieces that pique curiosity while revealing and concealing details within the folds of origami. Among the standout pieces are lenticular maps, inspired by childhood toys that reveal dual images when viewed from different angles. A map of Jaipur, for instance, morphs from a UNESCO World Heritage map of the walled city (2019) to an archival Navagraha map from 1885. Another interactive feature includes a pinwheel reimagined as the earth spinning on its axis, revealing maps of the north and south poles.

Beyond traditional maps, Map Unfolded includes abstract pieces inspired by cloud maps from global space agencies like NASA, ISRO, and JAXA. "The idea of including cloud and galaxy maps was to complete the circle," says Prshant. Additionally, there are also display maps of cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Kolkata.

A selfie mirror room adds an interactive element, allowing visitors to pose alongside archival maps of the Charminar and Red Fort, amplifying the exhibition's modern appeal.

Prshant summarises, "Each time I open an old map, I find it tough to fold it back the same way. There are overlaps, which add to the artistic quality." Map Unfolded is on view at Kalakriti Art Gallery until October 5, offering viewers a journey through maps, both archival and artistic, that defy traditional expectations.

Beyond traditional maps, Map Unfolded includes abstract pieces inspired by cloud maps from global space agencies such as NASA, ISRO, and JAXA. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

> Each time I open an old map, I find it tough to fold it back the same way. There are overlaps, which add to the artistic quality
>
> — PRSHANT LAHOTI

NIMS opens day care facility for kids

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A day care facility to provide health care to children suffering from rare genetic diseases was inaugurated at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) by the NIMS Director, Dr. Nagari Bheerappa, on Friday.

Managed by the Department of Genetics, NIMS, and Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), the facility will provide therapeutic facilities to children from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh with rare genetic disorders.

The NIMS-CDFD genetics facility is one of the 12 centres of excellence (CoE) in the country established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It will enable caregivers to administer expensive IV infusions and other drugs, as and when they are available and are provided by Health Ministry, to children with rare diseases. The Genetics department also provides daily out-patient consultation, genetic counseling, genetic foetal sonography, prenatal diagnostic services and foetal autopsy evaluation.

"The highly expensive treatment modality for children with rare diseases is supported by the Health Ministry under the National Policy for Rare Diseases," said additional professor, Genetics, NIMS, Dr Prajnya Ranganath.

> The treatment is supported by the Health Ministry under the National Policy for Rare Diseases
>
> — DR PRAJNYA RANGANATH, NIMS

KIMS performs 300 robotic knee surgeries

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Advanced Robotic Center (ARC), KIMS Hospital, Kondapur, has successfully completed 300 fully automated robotic knee replacement surgeries. The robotic surgeries were performed by utilising the state-of-the-art CUVIS Joint Robotic System from Korea.

The surgeries have been highly effective in treating patients suffering from conditions like knee osteoarthritis, said Dr. Sai Laxman Anne, Chief Orthopedic and Joint Replacement Surgeon.

The KIMS Kondapur is also conducting a fellowship programme for doctors, technicians, and nurses in robotic knee surgeries. The initiative allows doctors from both India and abroad to learn new techniques and apply them in their regions. "We are proud that six doctors from the first batch have successfully completed the six-month fellowship and achieved excellent results in their examinations," Dr. Sai Laxman said.

On the occasion, Dr. B Bollineni Bhaskar Rao, CMD of KIMS Hospitals and CEO, Dr. Abhinay Bollineni congratulated the team.

> KIMS Kondapur is also conducting fellowship programme for doctors, technicians, and nurses

In Brief

HYDERABAD

Admissions announced

The Woxsen University announced admissions to its MBA programmes for the AY 2025 intake. Aspiring students can apply for the MBA (General), MBA (Business Analytics), MBA (Financial Services) & MBA (General) for Experienced Professionals programmes. Woxsen University's Scholar's Round will be open until November 17. The university received honour for its MBA programmes, securing 6th spot in Bloomberg Best B-School 2024 Rankings for the Asia Pacific region.

HYDERABAD

Jigyasa wins tourney

The Jigyasa team of Anurag University won the World CanSat and Rocketry Championship finals held recently in Portugal. The four-member team, G Maniram (CSE, 3rd year), Y Bala Praneeth Sagar (ECE, 3rd year), TR Divyakanth (ECE, 3rd year), and Rujul Rumale (ECE, 2nd year), competed with teams from Portugal, Romania, Serbia, and other countries, and were placed first in the championship.

HYDERABAD

TiE Grad Plus hosted

TiE Hyderabad hosted TiE Grad Plus – Semi-finals at G. Narayanamma Institute of Technology & Sciences (GNITS) and 10 teams selected to be finalists will now receive a month of mentorship from TiE Hyderabad's charter members, leading up to the TiE Grad grand finale. Team Fincraft from KMIT, Team G Eye from GNITS, Team Kreeda Connect from ICFAI, Team Matsya from Sreenidhi College, Team Dhrud from CBIT, Team Vervue from NGIT, Team Brianiax from VBIT and others are the finalists.

Youth summit sees huge participation

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Over 10,000 students joined the inaugural day of the second edition of 'Rising with Kindness' Youth Summit being organised by the Heartfulness in collaboration with The Commonwealth, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), at Kanha Shanti Vanam.

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Labour and Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya; Daaji, guide of Heartfulness and president of Shri Ram Chandra Mission; Dr. Hamdan Al Shaer - Deputy Chairman of Zayed International Foundation for the Environment; Sushil Ram, Commonwealth Secretariat; Dr. RC Agrawal, Deputy Director General Education, ICAR; Brijesh Dholakia, CEO, Hari Krishna Exports; were present with world champion PV Sindhu joining virtually.

A fireside chat involved Pragya Mishra, lead, public policy & partnership, Open AI; Neeti Goel, founder, Wht Now Initiative — a youth forum against cyber harassment with Dr. Nivedita Shreyans, director, youth programme, Heartfulness Institute.

Siddhant delivers his career best in this action flick

'Yudhra', starring Siddhant Chaturvedi, is about a young man named Yudhra who is consumed by anger and loves to take risks in life.

Before he was born, his parents meet with an accident and, fortunately, he survives the mishap. However, things get ugly when he gets to know that his parents were murdered.

Fuelled by revenge and infiltrating a powerful cartel to avenge his murdered parents, he goes on a mission to erase the drug lord while finding the truth. Raised by a man haunted by the same demons, he's a ticking time bomb of rage and recklessness.

His mission leads him through military school, prison, and, ultimately, into the heart of the cartel's operations. However, as he gets closer to his target, Yudhra meets betrayal, deceit, and a dark truth about his past that will test his limits.

Siddhant Chaturvedi delivers a compelling performance as Yudhra. His portrayal captures both the physical intensity and emotional turmoil of a character. Siddhant likes to experiment with his roles. Be it a timid cricketer Prashant Kanaujia in 'Inside Edge' or a fearless rapper in 'Gully Boy', Siddhant flourishes in every role and this one is no exception. Director Ravi Udyawar delivers a power-packed movie that will give you an adrenaline rush. His direction is crisp and gritty, completely submerging you in the story. However, 'Yudhra' somewhere stumbles in its narrative complexity. The plot, though initially gripping, starts to feel overly familiar as it leans heavily on standard revenge-thriller tropes.

Apart from Siddhant, Ram Kapoor is flawless in his performance as Rehman. Malavika Mohanan as Nikhat is no damsel in distress while Raghav Juyal plays a supporting role that complements the film's darker tone.

'Yudhra' offers a visceral cinematic experience. The film thrives on its intense action sequences, and Siddhant Chaturvedi and Raghav Juyal's commanding performances elevate it beyond a typical revenge saga. IANS

Movie review

Title: Yudhra
Directors: Ravi Udyawar
Cast: Siddhant Chaturvedi, Raghav Juyal, Malavika Mohanan, Gajraj Rao, Ram Kapoor, and Raj Arjun

Chitra's concert at Shilpa Kala Vedika on Dec 22

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The much-awaited concert, 'Chithramrutam', featuring legendary playback singer KS Chitra, will be held on December 22 at Shilpa Kala Vedika. The official poster for the concert was unveiled by singer Sunitha Upadrasta at a special event on Friday.

Organised by N Chant Media, in association with M3 Entertainment, the event promises to be a night of unforgettable melodies as Chitra takes the stage to perform her iconic Telugu hits, accompanied by talented young artistes. Tickets are available on BookMyShow.

Sunitha expressed her admiration for Chitra, saying, "I am among the biggest fans of Chitra garu and her voice. It is an honour to launch the poster for this concert; I am eagerly looking forward to attending the show and witnessing her magic live on stage."

Playback singer Sunitha Upadrasta launching the poster for K S Chitra's Telugu concert 'Chithramrutam'

Continuation
from page 1

Uncertainty grips stalled PRLIS works

The project's cost has escalated from the initially approved Rs 35,200 crore to an estimated Rs 58,086 crore. Nearly 85% of the work was completed during the previous regime, with Rs 31,423 crore already spent.

Ministry of Jal Shakti has assured partial funding but requires a fresh Detailed Project Report (DPR) after resolving water-sharing issues with the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-II).

The Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, once a symbol of hope, now stands as a testament to the complexities and challenges of large-scale infrastructure projects. The local population continues to await the promised benefits, as political and administrative hurdles impede progress.

Rs 5 meal scheme in govt hospitals diluted

While the gradual drop in beneficiaries created difficulties for patients, who are admitted to the inpatient wards in government hospitals, caregivers have also pointed out that fatigue from the menu has also played its role.

"There are instances where attendants themselves have made their own arrangements to get food (non-vegetarian) from their relatives staying in Hyderabad. So, the names of the patient attendants, for whom the food has to be cooked, are not forwarded to the implementing agencies," senior health officials said.

Every day, thousands of patients, along with their attendants, a majority from districts and even from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, visit tertiary government hospitals in Hyderabad for treatment. While the dietary requirement of patients admitted in the inpatient recovery wards is taken care of by the hospital's in-house canteen, the attendants of patients, usually a family member, end up incurring out-of-pocket expenditure for healthy meals.

To address such difficulties, in April-May 2022, the then BRS government launched a Rs 5 per meal initiative in all major tertiary hospitals in Hyderabad. The 18 government hospitals where the initiative was implemented include Osmania General Hospital (OGH), Gandhi Hospital, Niloufer, SD Eye Hospital, Petlaburj Maternity Hospital, MNJ Cancer Hospital, Erragadda Chest Hospital, Koti ENT Hospital, Nallakunta Fever Hospital, Koti Maternity Hospital, Gachibowli TIMS, King Koti District Hospital and Area Hospitals at five different locations including Malakpet, Golconda, Vanasthalipuram, Kondapur, Nampally.

Hospital superintendents in Hyderabad have maintained that earlier the State government had planned to rename and relaunch the initiative along with KCR Kits and nutritional kits. "Clarity on the issue is yet to arrive," officials said.

Don't interfere, apex court to Revanth

The petitioners had claimed that no fair trial in the case was possible in Telangana with Reddy at the helm. They had said if a criminal trial was not free and fair, the credibility of the criminal justice system would undoubtedly be at stake, eroding the confidence of the common people in the system which would not augur well for society at large.

The counsel appearing for Revanth Reddy told the court that the plea seeking transfer of trial was filed with a political motive. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said the trial in the case was halfway through and the prosecution was being conducted by a prosecutor who was appointed by the erstwhile regime. The Bench noted the petitioners expressed concern that Revanth Reddy has a direct control over the ACB and the director of the bureau was directly answerable to him. PTI

No breakfast yet for govt schoolkids

Congress govt looking at measures to fund popular scheme

YUVRAJ AKULA
HYDERABAD

It has been three months since the new academic year began. Yet, students in government schools are being deprived of nutritious breakfast. This is because the Congress government has not issued directions asking schools to resume the scheme. "This academic year, we did not receive any direction from the government to provide breakfast to students. So, schools are not providing them with breakfast," said an official source.

On several occasions, BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised the ruling party for stopping the breakfast scheme meant for economically weaker students studying in the government schools.

The Congress government is learnt to be now looking for alternative resources to fund the scheme, which the previous BRS government took care as Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme and provided adequate funds. Deviating from past practices, the Education Department held discussions to rope in donors and corporate companies under the corporate social responsibility to financial assistance for continuing the scheme.

The breakfast scheme was meant for economically weaker students studying in government schools across the State.

Further, the government is also considering rechristening the scheme and restart it in Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's Kodangal constituency. After the success of the pilot project in Kodangal, the government intends to expand the scheme to schools across the State.

The previous BRS government launched the Chief Minister's Breakfast scheme to ensure that students in government schools do not start their day on an empty stomach. It was also aimed at providing nutritious food, besides eradicating anaemia, particularly among girl students. In fact, several schools have reported an increase in student attendance after the launch of the scheme.

Initially, the scheme was launched in 119 government and local schools with one school in each Assembly constituency in October 2023. Later, it was expanded to 3,500 schools and the government had planned to extend it to all 27,147 schools in a phased manner, benefiting 23 lakh students. For this, the previous BRS government allocated Rs 672 crore.

The breakfast menu included idli and sambar, wheat rava upma, puri and alu kurma, tomato bath, upma, rice rava khichdi, millet idli, pongal, uggani, poha and millet idli.

However, after a change in the government, the scheme was stopped.

"Since the start of the 2024-25 academic year, schools have not provided breakfast to students. The government has not cleared the previous bills for providing breakfast," a schoolteacher said.

New norms out for adjusting surplus teachers

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The School Education Department on Friday rolled out guidelines for adjusting surplus teachers in schools, allotting one and two teachers for primary schools with pupil strength between one and 10, and 11 and 60, respectively.

Primary schools with 61-90 pupils and 91-120 strength will get three and four teachers, respectively. In the case of enrollment of 121-150 and 153-200, five and six teachers will be assigned to primary schools.

The move comes as there are anomalies in the number of teachers working against children enrollment. In some schools, teachers outnumber children, while in some other schools insufficient number of teachers is working compared to the enrollmentv.

For the upper primary sections, two teachers with one each language and non-language have been allotted to the schools with one-20 pupils, while four teachers for schools with 21 and above strength, as per the guidelines.

In the case of high school, a minimum of seven teachers with one each in mathematics, physical science, biological science, English, social sciences, first language and second language will be given pupil strength up to 220.

District Collectors have been asked to make adjustments of teachers within the district duly analysing school-wise and subject-wise requirements based on the student enrollment. The teachers drafted to a new school as part of adjustment process are temporary and cannot be considered as transfer to new school.

Hyd CP clarifies on rumours

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

City Police Commissioner CV Anand on Friday denied rumours of lathicharge by police personnel during the Milad-un-Nabi celebrations held at Charminar.

Clarifying on the news being circulated on various mediums, the Commissioner said the chaos was caused by a fire from a short circuit in a DJ van. The flames subsequently spread to the diesel laden tanker nearby, resulting in the sudden blaze.

"The fire was swiftly brought under control and no lathi charge took place, contrary to the rumours circulating," Anand stated.

The city police chief further urged the citizens not to believe false reports, emphasising that the situation was managed without force. He said the police have ensured safety measures are in place for the celebrations.

BRS panel to dig deep into Gandhi hospital deaths

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A three-member fact-finding committee has been formed by the BRS to study the maternal and infant mortalities at Gandhi Hospital and analyse the state of healthcare services available in government hospitals in Telangana. BRS working president KT Rama Rao said the committee will also take a deep dive to assess quality of healthcare available for the poor in major government hospitals. Three physicians — former Health Minister Dr T Rajaiah, senior spine specialist and MLA Koratla, Dr Kalvakuntla Sanjay and Vikarabad BRS MLA Dr Methuku Anand — are members of the committee, which will produce a report on the state of affairs in government healthcare facilities and come up with recommendations, which will be submitted to the State government, Rama Rao said.

Focus on preventing crime: MoS

Nityanand Rai asks IPS trainee officers to address cybercrimes

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai during the passing out parade at the SVP National Police Academy in Shivrampally on Friday.

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai asked Indian Police Service (IPS) probationer officers to understand the new criminal laws and work towards preventing crime rather than focusing on punishing criminals.

Addressing the officers at the Dikshant Parade of the 76th batch of Regular Recruits of IPS at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) on Friday, the Minister said cybercrime has emerged as a major challenge and asked the IPS officer trainees to lead the endeavour to address the challenge with technical expertise.

"Cyber Forensic Lab, Police Technology Mission and other initiatives have been taken by the union Home Ministry to strengthen the police system. Terrorism and Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) have almost been eliminated. You need to be firm against them to root it out completely," the Minister of State said.

Nityanand Rai said the country's internal security and law and order can be strengthened if investigators trace the origin of a crime and try to tackle a criminal's potential to harm peace instead of taking them to the court of law.

The Dikshant Parade marked the culmination of the basic course training for 207 officer trainees, including 188 IPS officers and 19 foreign officers from Nepal, Bhutan and others, with a notable 58 women officers among them. Vishwajeet Souryan from the Uttar Pradesh cadre was awarded the IPS Association's Sword of Honour for being the Best Outdoor Probationer.

Trainee officers allocated to Telangana, AP

The trainee officers allocated to the Telangana cadre included Manan Bhat from J&K, Ruthwik Sai Kotte and Saikiran Pathipaka from Telangana, and Yadav Vasundhara Faurebi from Uttar Pradesh.

80-year-old woman gang-raped

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

An 80-year-old woman was gang-raped allegedly by three men at Medchal on Thursday.

The woman, who lives alone, was overpowered and sexually assaulted by the suspects at Bandamadamaram village.

"They overpowered and raped her and fled the spot," police said, adding that she regained consciousness and came out on the road. Passersby, on seeing her, alerted the police on Dial 100.

The Medchal police booked a case of gang rape. Efforts are on to nab the other suspects. The victim was shifted to the hospital for medical examination.

Jani Master says he's being framed

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Choreographer Jani Master, who was arrested in Goa by the Cyberabad Police following allegations of sexual harassment filed against him by a female assistant choreographer, was brought to Hyderabad early on Friday.

He was grilled by the Cyberabad Central Crime Station (CCS) officials and Narsingi police at an undisclosed location in connection with the allegations and the case booked against him here.

According to the sources, Jani Master told the officials that all the allegations against him were baseless and that he was being implicated in the case by those who were unhappy with his success. After recording his statement, he was taken to a hospital for a medical examination before being produced in a local court at Upparpalli. He was remanded in judicial custody and shifted to the Central Prison in Chanchalguda. A 'Zero FIR' case was booked following a complaint lodged by a female choreographer in Raidurgam. Subsequently, on the point of jurisdiction the case was transferred to Narsingi.

> **He told officials that allegations were baseless and he was being implicated by those unhappy with his success**
>
> — SOURCES

The charges include Sections 376 (rape), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 323(2) of the IPC, along with sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act, as the victim was a minor when she was first sexually assaulted during a work trip in 2020.

Gachibowli flyover closed, traffic curbs in place

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In view of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) construction work for the SRDP Shilpa Layout Phase-II flyover at the Gachibowli junction, the Cyberabad Traffic Police has placed certain traffic restrictions in the surroundings for a week — from September 19 to 26.

During this time, the Gachibowli flyover will be closed, according to officials.

The alternative route suggested was for Bio-Diversity Junction to IIIT Junction, bypass the flyover and travel beside it via Bichareddy Sweets (Telecom Nagar) to Gachibowli Junction, then to IIIT junction and for IIIT Junction to Bio-Diversity junction, bypass the flyover via Gachibowli junction to Bio-Diversity junction, according to an advisory issued by the police.

In Brief

HYDERABAD
Man gets lifer for killing wife

A local court on Friday sentenced a man to life imprisonment in the murder case of his wife reported at Shadnagar in 2020. It also imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on him. J Ramesh (36), a farmer from Annaram in Farooknagar, often picked up arguments with his wife J Lalitha (30) and harassed her mentally and physically. After one such argument, he grabbed a knife and stabbed her indiscriminately. She died in hospital. The Shadnagar police registered a case and arrested Ramesh.

HYDERABAD
General ranking list

The Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) on Friday released the general ranking list, along with the final key, for recruitment to posts of hostel welfare officer, warden, and matron in different welfare departments on its website www.tspsc.gov.in/. No further objections will be entertained on the final key, the TGPSC said in a web note.

HYDERABAD
Oggu Katha workshop

The Centre for Folk Culture Studies (CFCS), School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad (UoH), in collaboration with the Telangana Department of Language and Culture, is organising a presentation and workshop on Oggu Katha, the ancient folk theatre art form of Telangana. Oggu Katha troupe, led by Komuravelli Mallanna Oggu Katha, will conduct the workshop.

HYDERABAD
Scholarships for courses

The University of Wollongong India (UOW India), one of the first high-ranking Australian universities to establish a teaching base in India, announced the 'Inaugural Scholarship' for its upcoming November student intake. According to a press release, the scholarship will offer financial benefits to students applying for computing and fintech programmes.

HYDERABAD
Water cut on Sept 23

Water supply will be disrupted for 24 hours in some parts of the city from 6 am of September 23. The HMWSSB said the 1,200 mm dia PSC gravity main pipeline from Prashasan Nagar to Ayyappa Society, which supplies drinking water to the city, has developed leakages at many places. The repair will be taken up from 6 am on September 23 to 6 am on September 24.

TEEGALA RAM REDDY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
(Approved by AICTE & PCI, Affiliated to JNTU, Hyderabad) ESTD: 2006
4-202, Meerpet, Balapur (M)., Ranga Reddy(Dist.), Hyderabad-500 097.
Admission Notification M. Pharmacy B-Category-A.Y.2024-25
M. PHARMACY – B CATEGORY (TG-PEGCET-TRPM1)

M.Pharmacy (Branches)	Intake	B-Category
Pharmaceutics	15	4
Pharmaceutical Analysis	15	4
Pharmacology	15	4

Vacancy seats for B. Category admissions for M.Pharmacy will be filled in the institute; interested candidates may obtain and submit applications to the college or through online application from college website https://trr.org.in/ or attend along with all original certificates on or before 5-10-2024. Admissions will be made as per the regulations TGPGECET – 2024 and TSCHE of Govt. of Telangana.
(No Application Fee, No Donation, No Capitation Fee, No Development Fund, No Other Fee)
FOR DETAILS CONTACT: - 9154364306 / 9154364310.

SRI VENKATESHWARA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
ESTD-1995 Approved by PCI & Affiliated to Osmania University
86, Hi-tech City Road, Madhapur, Hyd-81 College Code -VCOP
Ph: 9966991548, 9666277873
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR "B" CATEGORY SEATS-2024-25

PHARM.D(PB)	3 SEATS
M.PHARMACY (PHARMACEUTICS)	4 SEATS
M.PHARMACY (PH.ANALYSIS)	4 SEATS

Applications can be had from the college/downloaded from our website. Seats will be allotted based on merit at the prescribed fees As per the PGECET-2024 guidelines Last Date: 30-09-2024. www.svcollegeofpharmacy.com
Sd/- Secretary

VISION P.G. COLLEGE
(Approved by AICTE & Affiliated to O.U)
R.N.S Colony, Boduppal, Hyderabad.
Ph: 7396096306, 9515696247
Category "B" (NRI/Management Quota) Notification
Non Minority Institute
MBA : 96 Seats
Application Fee Rs.300/- Contact between 10am to 4pm on or before 5th october 2024 without fine and 10th October 2024 with Rs. 1000/- Fine. Admissions are Subject to Ractification by TGCHE/OU Fee Reimbursement is not Applicable.
Candidates to Pay Tuition Fee, Processing Fee.
Apply online Mail id: visionmba10@gmail.com
Contact: 7396096306, 9515696247

BHONGIR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
(Affiliated to Mahathma Gandhi University, Approved by NCTE)
Bhongir, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri Dist.
Ph: 9848 04 2299
Admission Notification for B-Category Seats
College Code: BGNR
Course: B.Ed. 'B' Category Seats: 25
The last date for submission of filled-in application is Date: 23-09-2024. The eligibility norms & admission procedure will be strictly as per Telangana Govt. order & TGCHE.

MOTHER TERESA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
(Affiliated to Mahathma Gandhi University, Approved by NCTE)
Anantharam, Bhongir, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri Dist. Ph: 9848 04 2299
Admission Notification for B-Category Seats
College Code: MTCE
Course: B.Ed. 'B' Category Seats: 25
The last date for submission of filled-in application is Date: 23-09-2024. The eligibility norms & admission procedure will be strictly as per Telangana Govt. order & TGCHE.

aspa ASHOKA
SCHOOL OF PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE
Approved by Council of Architecture & Affiliated to JNAFA University, Hyderabad
Near Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad -508252.
NOTIFICATION
B.ARCH & M.ARCH PROGRAMS – AY 2024-25 - CATEGORY B ADMISSION
Ashoka School of Planning and Architecture (ASPA) invites applications from eligible students for admission through 'Category B' to five-year full-time B.Arch (Bachelor of Architecture) and two-year full-time M.Arch (Master of Architecture – ACPM) for AY 2024-25. Hostel and bus facilities are available. For eligibility criteria, please refer website of Council of Architecture (coa.gov.in/nata.in) and JNAFAU (jnafau.ac.in). Applications may be collected at the Campus or downloaded from www.aspa.in. The last date for submission of completed applications is 26.09.2024. For further details, contact for Admissions Ph: 7207939938.
Sd/- Director

ST.JOHN'S P.G. COLLEGE
Chengicherla (V), Medipally(M), Medchal - Malkajgiri (Dist)
(Approved by AICTE, Affiliated to O.U) Ph: 9949490652, 9849139745
CATEGORY "B" (NRI/ MANAGEMENT Quota) NOTIFICATION
Non minority Institute
MBA: 54 & MCA: 09 Seats
Application Fee Rs. 300/- Contact between 10am and 4pm on or before 28th September 2024 Admissions are subject to ratification by TGCHE/OU Fee Reimbursement is not Applicable
Candidates to pay tuition Fee. Processing Fee.
Apply Online:
www.stjohnspgcollege.in Contact : 9849139745, 9603216358

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD
ZONAL OFFICE
IVth Floor, 3-6-365, Liberty Plaza, Himayathnagar, Hyderabad-500029
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SOLAR PLANT INSTALLATION
Indian Bank, a Public Sector Bank invites tenders under 2 bid system (Technical & Financial Bid) from the Vendors dealing with installation of Solar Plants, Towards Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance of 10 & 5 kwp Grid Interactive Solar Photo Voltanic system willing to install in our Indian Bank Begumpet Staff Quarters, Begumpet, Hyderabad & Anandnagar Bank House, Kharitabad, Hyderabad. Phone Nos - 040-23224350.
The Tender forms can be obtained from Indian Bank Begumpet Staff Quarters, Begumpet, Hyderabad & Anandnagar Bank House, Kharitabad, Hyderabad. from 21.09.2024 to 07.10.2024 On payment of Rs.250/- (Non-refundable) by way of DD favoring Indian Bank. Last date for submission of Bids is 3.30 P.M. / 07.10.2024. Details of tender can be obtained from our Website: www.indianbank.in
The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
Zonal Manager, Indian Bank,
Premises& Estate Department, Hyderabad Zone.

PRAGATI MAHAVIDYALAYA PG COLLEGE
(Managed by : SHRI GUJARATI PRAGATI SAMAJ)
Approved by AICTE & Affliated to OU, Hyderabad.
Hanuman Tekdi, Kandaswamy Lane, Hyderabad. Ph : 040-24753887
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR B-CATEGORY SEATS (MBA)
(TOTAL VACANCIES IN MBA 18 SEATS)
1. Application forms may be obtained from the college between 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
2. The duly filled-in forms should be submitted on or before 01/10/2024
* Cost of the application and Registration is Rs. 500/-
For more details visit our website : www.pg.pragatimahavidyalaya.in
Sd/- CORRESPONDENT

DCA seizes steroids

Stock worth Rs 2L seized during raid at Esamiya Bazar in Koti

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Acting on credible information on the illegal sale of steroid medicines to gym-goers, the Drugs Control Administration (DCA), Telangana, raided an unlicensed premises operating under the name Rakesh Distributor at Esamiya Bazar, Koti, and detected an unauthorised stock of a large quantity of steroid medicines for sale.

During the raids, the DCA officials found 22 varieties of steroid medicines, including androgen and anabolic steroids, stocked for sale at the premises, indicating the potential for abuse of steroid medicines. The abuse of androgen and anabolic steroids poses significant health risks. These drugs, often misused by bodybuilders to enhance muscle growth, can lead to a range of adverse effects, including cardiovascular issues, liver damage, mood swings and hormonal imbalances. Moreover, long-term abuse can result in severe health complications such as infertility, kidney failure and psychiatric disorders, the DCA said.

Stock worth Rs 2 lakh was seized during the raid carried out by V Ajay, Drugs Inspector, Goshamahal; and P Santosh, Drugs Inspector, Mehdipatnam, among others. In another instance, the DCA officials raided Srikanth Neurocentre, a hospital at Miyapur, and found Dr Boini Srikanth Yadav illegally operating a medical shop in the hospital without a valid licence. Unauthorised stocking of huge quantities of medicines for sale were detected and stocks of 31 varieties worth Rs 1.01 lakh were seized. A Shylaja Rani, Drugs Inspector, Serilingampally; and D Swetha Bindu, Drugs Inspector, Gandipet; were among the officers who carried out raid.

In Brief

SANGAREDDY

Student goes missing

Depressed over failing in examination, a girl left her home after recording an audio message for her family members on her phone. Sathvika (22), who was studying BSc Nursing at a private college, had the results of the final year examinations announced recently. A resident of Sairam Nagar Colony in Patancheru town, Sathvika reportedly failed in a paper.

SANGAREDDY

Missing plaint filed

A woman, Nalla Lakshmi (20), along with her 11-month-old son Pranay was reported missing from her residence at Isnapur. According to her husband Sai Kumar (20), who works in a private industry, they had an argument over a petty issue on Wednesday when she left the home.

Bandi demands CBI probe into Tirupati laddu row

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Amid allegations that animal fat was used in Tirupati laddus, Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay demanded that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu order Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the matter to uncover the truth and take strong action against those responsible.

On Friday, Sanjay wrote to Chandrababu Naidu to conduct a comprehensive probe into the allegations and take action against persons responsible for the adulteration of the Tirupati laddus. The alleged use of animal fat in making the laddu was a deep betrayal of faith and trust of Hindus who pray to Lord Venkateshwara, he said, adding that the issue had affected the sentiments of millions of devotees of Lord Sri Venkateshwara Swamy and Hindus across the world.

"Animal fat being used in laddu is a deep betrayal of faith and trust to Hindus who pray to Tirumala Venkateshwara Swamy. God will not forgive for this massive betrayal to Hindus," he said. In the past, BJP had raised concerns that allowing individuals from other communities and atheists as employees and also into the TTD board would lead to corruption and disrespect towards beliefs of Hindus, he recalled.

"It is the responsibility of the State government to put political interests aside and serve the sentiments of all the Hindus of the world. A thorough investigation should be ordered immediately and strict measures should be taken to ensure that those who are found to be guilty are punished according to law, irrespective of who they are," he said.

'Protect sanctity of prasadam'

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Chilkur Balaji temple head priest Chilkur Rangarajan urged the TTD to stall cow-based products used for making Srivari pras adam until the raw materials were discarded.

Terming the news on use of foreign substances like animal fat for making Tirupati laddus as painful for the devotees, Rangarajan urged the AP government to dig deep into the issue and identify the culprits.

Rangarajan also urged the AP government to initiate further steps to ensure there was no compromise on the quality of ghee.

Mentor a must for success in UPSC, says top bureaucrat

Guest speaker Dr G Vivekananda, Assistant Director at the Ministry of Defence, shared insights into the UPSC journey and encouraged students to identify challenges in every sphere of life.

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A seminar titled 'Civil Services – the G.O.A.T Career for a Fresh Graduate,' hosted by 'Telangana Today' and 'Namasthe Telangana' in collaboration with Reflections IAS Academy at KG Reddy College of Engineering and Technology on Friday, was an enriching experience for students aspiring to pursue a career in civil services.

Guest speaker Dr G Vivekananda, Assistant Director at the Ministry of Defence, shared insights into the UPSC journey and encouraged students to identify challenges in every sphere of life, offering solutions to these challenges from their perspectives. Responding to a query made by P Keerthana, a final-year student, Dr Vivekananda advised students to mould themselves to learn consistently, understand the demand for optional subjects and stressed that having a mentor is essential for success in the civil services examination.

Ramana Muppala, founder and director of Reflections IAS Academy, emphasised that civil services is one of the best career choices for any graduate

Ramana Muppala, founder and director of Reflections IAS Academy, emphasised that civil services is one of the best career choices for any graduate and said it provides legitimate authority to serve society and offers a prestigious social status. He added that aspirants, by choosing civil services, become well-versed in a wide range of subjects and are well-prepared to crack any state public service commission or national exam.

Dr Narsaiah, vice principal of the institution, encouraged students to leverage such seminars for growth, while Daniel Prabhakar, dean of Training and Placements, thanked Telangana Publications for organising the seminar.

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rajashekhar Sangappa Kheroji S/o Sangappa Kheroji R/o Hyderabad Telangana has Changed my name from Rajashekhar to **Rajashekhar Sangappa Kheroji** for all future purpose. [TT-24696]

I, Kavithri Singh W/o. Bikram Singh, R/o Flat # 202, 2nd Floor, Shalivahana Residency, Officers Colony, AS Rao Nagar, Kapra, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Telengana-500062. have changed my name from Kavithri Singh to **Kavithri** [TT-333063]

I, Vengala Shilaja W/o. Vengala Krishnamoorthy R/o 17-1-382/n/20, Flat 307, Cnr Plaza, Nagarjuna Colony, Champapet, Hyderabad - 500079 have changed my name to **Vengala Shailaja.** [TT-37979]

I, P Bhaktavachalam, R/o. M-10, Sri Srila Park Pride, Hydernagar, Kukatpally, Ranga reddy, PIN: 500049, Telangana, changed my name as **Pagadala Bhaktavatsalam** [TT-333147]

I, GOUROJU SHASHIKANTH, S/o G.ACHARI, R/o. H.No. 6-3/A Road No.3, Madhurapuri Colony, Almasguda, Balapur Mandal, Ranga Reddy-500058, Telangana. In my Passport my surname by mistake has been entered. Incorrect Particulars: **GOWROJU SHASHIKANTH**, But the Correct name is **GOUROJU SHASHIKANTH**. For further the best of my knowledge and belief. [TT-11466]

I, JACINTHA MARY, D/o. M.A.JOHN, R/o.H.No. 3-53-65, New Gandhi Nagar, Tirumalagiri, Secunderebad- 500015. Have changed my name as **JACINTHA MARY** To **JACINTHA JOHN,** D/o.M.A.JOHN. [TT-KMM]

I, Harishad Gajanan Paithane S/o Gajanan Sahebrao Paithane, R/o Takarkheda Helga, (T)-Chikhli, (D)-Buldhana, (S)-Maharashtra, 444301, have changed my name from Harishad Gajanan Paithane to **Harshad Gajanan Paithane,** vide Affidavit Dt.20-9-2024, before Sec-Bad Court. [TT-12492]

I, BATHINI LAXMI R/o.H No. 4-353/P, P.No-353, Sri Raja Rajeshwari Nagar Cly, Kondapur Hyd- 84 TS. Changed My Name to **BATHINI ANANTHA LAKSHMI** W/o. BATHINI SRINIVAS [TT-8129]

I, VINJAMOORI LAKSHMAIAH R/o. 6-6-136/305, Sai Pooja Residency, Ravindra Nagar Hyderabad Road, Nalgonda TS. Changed My Name As **VINJAMURI LAKSHMAIAH** S/o. Vinjamuri Venkatanarsaiah [TT-8129]

I, SARALA DEVI R/o. 3-3-64/54, St No. 7, Endowment Cly, Ramanthapur Uppal RCK Medchal -13, TS Changed My Name As **BANGAROJU SARALA** W/o. BANGAROJU KONDAIAH CHARY [TT-8129]

I, EKNATH, R/o. 6-3-1100/4/4, FNo.201, Jaya Lake View B/s. Matrika Hospital, Somajiguda Hyd-500082, TS. have Changed My Name to **DAHAL EKNATH,** S/o. DAHAL RAM. hereby declare that Names both are Same person [TT-8129]

I, WAHEEDA UNNISA R/o. 8-1-43/1/A/66, F.No.104, 1' St Flr, ZEHRA TOWERS, Satya Cly, Shaikpet, Hyd -500008, TS Changed My Name to **WAHEEDA BEGUM** W/o.MIR OSMAN ALI. [TT-8129]

I, Balappanawar Ishwar R/o.45-S, Sector no.63-A Brindavan sector Navanagar Bagalkot Karnataka Changed My Name As **BALAPPANAWAR ISHWAR BALASAB** S/o. Balappanawar Balasab Shivaningappa [TT-8129]

I, MOHAMMED ABDUL ANWER S/o. MOHAMMED ABDUL JAHNGIR R/o. 13-5-149/15/1, Yousuf Nagar Karwan Hyd-TS. Changed My Name As **MOHD ANWAR** S/o. MOHAMMED ABDUL JAHANGIR [TT-8129]

I, ZAREENA BEGUM, R/o.H.No. 11-2-208, Nampally Market, Nampally, Hyd- 500001, TS. Hence I have Changed my Name as **ZAREENA NAJEEB,** W/o. MOHAMMED NAJEEBULLAH. [TT-8130]

I, MOHAMMED HABEEB, S/o. Mohammed Ghulam Nabi Qureshi, R/o.H. No. 5-6-286, Opp. SBI Aghapura, Nampally. Hyd- 500001, TS. Hence I have Changed my Name as **MOHAMMED HABEEB QURESHI,** F/o.TABASSUM. [TT-8130]

I, MOHAMMED SHUJAYATULLAH KHAN, R/o. 5-6- 144, 2 nd Flr, 201, Tawakal Manzil, Aghapura, Hyd - 500001, TS. Hence I have Changed my Name as **MOHAMMED SHUJATULLAH KHAN,** S/o. MOHAMMED NIYABAT ULLAH KHAN [TT-8130]

I, Manjusri Gajendra W/o. Trilok Chandra Gajendra R/o: 14-7-1/1, F-104, Madhusai Silveroak Apts, Madhusudan Nagar, Malkajgiri-47, T.S. Has Changed My Name as **SAHUKARI MANJUSRI** [TT-8130]

I, Malan Bee R/o 8-8-185/2, Plot no: B-369, Greenpark Colony, Saroornagar, Hyd-35. Has Changed My Name as **AYESHA BEGUM** W/o Fareed Ahmed [TT-8130]

I, NAJMA W/o ABDI OMAR , R/o 208 SRT Colony Chandulal Baradari, Hyderabad, Telangana. Has Changed my Son name from WARFAO to **WARFA ABDI OMAR** [TT-8130]

I, Nayeem Unnisa Begum, D/o. Khaja Akramuddin, R/o. 11-4-613/1, Bazr Ghat, Hyd. TS. Has changed my name as **Nayeem Unnisa.** [TT-8130]

I, TUMMALA RAMA DEVI W/o. KOTA KOTESWARA RAO R/o. Flat No: 306, A Block, Aakriti Miro Apts, Nallagandla, Lingampalli, K, V Rangareddy- 500019, TS, hereby Notify as per Affidavit My Name has been Recorded as THUMMALA RAMA DEVU but My Correct Name is **TUMMALA RAMA DEVI** for all record purposes. [TT-8130]

LOST

I, Tankala Radha, W/o. Bhanuprasad, R/o. Khajaguda, R.R Dist, T.s Hyd-32 Lost my original Passport No: G7570594 while House Renovation. Any body found please **contact :9543143153** [TT-8255]

I, NIDAMARTHI SRIDHAR S/o. NIDAMARTHI RAJESWARA RAO R/o.H.No.129A, GORDHANPURI GARDENS, Yapral Jawahar Nagar, Medchal-500087, TS. that while I am travelling on AUTO on 13-09-2024, from Jawahar Nagar to Uppal MRO Office I have Lost My Passport Bearing No. G9666354 Date of issue 04-07-2008 , issue At HYD if anybody Found pls **Contact - 9849200551** [TT-8129]

I, MOHAMMED AAMIR QURESHI, S/o. MOHAMMED JAFFAR QURESHI R/o. H.No. 20-3-538, Jalal kuncha Hyderabad. Has lost My Original Passport No. S0649620, on 30/08/24. While Travelling From Misri gunj for Xerox. if Anyone found Please **Cont: 8019811906** [TT-8130]

I, Aitipamula Krishnaiah S/o late A.Janakiramaiah, H.No. 4-185/179, Maytri Shreepuram, Sangi Road, Pedda Amberpet, Abdullapurmet(M), Ranga Reddy Dist. I have lost my below Original Link document No. 3337/2002 of SRO, Miryalguda, Nalgonda Dist. If found any body please inform me my **contact no: 9848804434** [TT-333145]

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996 caught for harassment

HYDERABAD: As many as 996 persons were caught harassing women during the recent Ganesh festivities at the Khairatabad Bada Ganesh pandal and other crowded spots in the city. SHE Team officials said the suspects were caught when engaging in indecent behaviour towards women in public places. Cases were booked and they were prosecuted. For assistance contact SHE Teams on Dial 100 or WhatsApp 9490616555.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General public are hereby informed that my client, Nalla Srinivas S/o. Late N. Satyanarayana, aged about 47 years, Occ: Business, R/o. H.No.6- 124/2/1, Arvind Colony, Shamshabad Village, Shamshabad Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, has lost Sale Deed Doc. No. 1392 of 2013 dated 21.03.2013 in favour of Peteti Rama Krishna executed by S.Srinivas Reddy and registered at SRO Shamshabad. My client is absolute owner of Plot No.44 of Eastern Part, in survey No.117, admeasuring 100 Sq.yds., situated at Aravind Colony, Kapuguda, Shamshabad Village and Grampanchayat, Shamshabad Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, covered by Ward and Block No. 6 and bounded by: North: Plot No.22; South: 15' Wide Road; East: Plot No.45; West: Plot No.44 of Western Part; through Sale Deed Doc. No. 1696 of 2014 dated 30.05.2014 executed by Peteti Rama Krishna and registered at SRO Shamshabad.
Therefore If any person/s, Financial Institutions, having any kind of claim, objections, interest or right over the above mentioned property hereby required to make the same known in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned, within 7 days from the date of publication here off, anybody finds the same may be handover to me.
Sd/- **K.RAJANI**
Advocate
H.No. 16-113, Flat No.101,
SaiVihar Residency, New
Mirjalguda, Malkajgiri – 500 047.
Cell No. 9393099916, 9700022422

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed that my client **CHIKKULLAPALLY DURGAPATHY S/o Late CHIKKULLAPALLY SOMAIAH,** aged about 63 years, resident of House No. 4-32-383, Plot No. A-20, Allwyn Colony, Kukatpally, Medchal-Malkajgiri District-500072, Telangana State, lost his Original Link Document of Scheduled Property ie., registered Sale Deed Vide Document No 1957/1987 registered at Joint Sub-Registrar Ranga Reddy, dated 27/03/1987 of Plot bearing No. A-20, admeasuring 112.0 Square Yards or 93.44 Square Meters, in Survey No. 336, situated at Kukatpally village & Circle, under limits of GHMC, Kukatpally Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State. Hence Scheduled Property
If any person/s, Institution, Banks, etc., have any objections, claim, title over the mentioned scheduled property they are hereby called upon to approach the undersigned with all the documentary proof within 7 days from date of publication of this notice R. PUSHPA LATHA Advocate, Shop No-1, Plat No 1 & 2, Kamala Prasanna Nagar, Allwyn Colony, Kukatpally, Hyderabad - 500072. Mobile No. 9666691228
Sd/- **R.PUSHPA LATHA, B.COM, LLB**
Advocate
Shop No.1, Plot No 1 & 2, Kamala Prasanna Nagar, Allwyn Colony
Kukatpally, Hyderabad-72.
Ph: 9666691228.

Interstate drug peddlers held

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Police officials with the seized marijuana on Friday.

The Cyberabad Special Operations Team (SOT), along with the local police, busted an interstate drug peddling racket operating between Odisha and Delhi via Hyderabad and caught two persons, including a woman, on charges of drug peddling at Dundigal.

Officials said 86 kg of marijuana and a car, altogether worth Rs 33.2 lakh, were seized. The arrested were identified as Sunindra Kumar Singh and Laxmi, both from Odisha. The absconding suspects are Amit Agarwal, Raju and Shiva. According to the police, the gang procured marijuana from drug peddlers in a forest area in Berhampur in Odisha and smuggled it to Delhi. Efforts are on to nab the absconding suspects.

Man attacked during religious procession

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A man approached the Mangalhat police alleging he was assaulted by a group of unidentified persons during a religious procession taken out at Jhinsi Chowraha. The 39-year-old complaint said the assaulters stopped him when he was going on a bike and abused and assaulted him without any provocation. "He suffered grievous injuries. His friend, who came to his rescue, was also attacked," said police.

Cabinet okays revised estimates for SLBC

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The State Cabinet has approved the revised estimates of Rs 4,637 crore pertaining to Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnelling works and announced Rs 500 bonus for purchase of fine rice paddy varieties from this Kharif season.

During the three-hour-long meeting, the State Cabinet also took a few other decisions like appointing a 12-member officers committee to finalise the southern section of Regional Ring Road (RRR).

Briefing mediapersons after the Cabinet meeting, Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy said the SLBC tunnelling works would be completed by September 2027.

It would aid in providing irrigation water to four lakh acres. There would be no recurring cost as the water would be supplied through gravity, he said, adding that the balance part of Dindi balancing reservoir works would also be completed during the same period. Regarding the Rs 500 bonus for fine rice paddy varieties, the Minister said 1.43 lakh metric tonnes crop was expected this season. Of these, 80 lakh metric tonnes would be fine rice paddy varieties and 50 lakh metric tonnes of coarse varieties, he said. "For the purchase of fine rice paddy varieties this Kharif season, the State government allocated additional Rs.2,500 crore," said Uttam Kumar Reddy said. The Minister further said new ration cards would be issued from October and fine rice variety would be supplied to all ration card holders from January.

The State Cabinet also approved establishment of Logistics Park in 72 acres at Manoharabad. Three thousand teaching and non-teaching posts were approved for the eight medical colleges sanctioned, 34 personnel for fire station at Eturnagaram and engineering college for Kosgi and junior college for Hakimpet.

CMRF: Narayana donates Rs 2.5 cr

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy receiving the cheques for Rs 2.5 crore from Narayana Group representatives.

Narayana Educational Institutions donated Rs 2.5 crore each to the Chief Minister's Relief Funds of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to assist relief efforts and provide immediate aid to those affected by the devastating floods in the region.

The cheques were handed over to the respective Chief Ministers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh region, Revanth Reddy and N Chandrababu Naidu, by directors Ponguru Sindhura and Ponguru Sharani, and president Puneet Kothapa.

The Chief Ministers expressed their gratitude to Narayana Educational Institutions for their contribution and highlighted the critical role of such donations in strengthening the government's relief efforts to support flood-hit communities. Kothapa said, "The floods have caused immense hardship and it is our responsibility to extend help wherever we can."

Sindhura said, "We are committed to not only academic excellence but also to contributing positively to society in difficult times."

Woman kills daughter, ends life

SIDDIPET

A woman threw her daughter into a well and later jumped into it in Bejjanki in the early hours of Friday. Her son Raghuvaran (9) managed to escape.

The woman Sambari Sarada (38) had an argument with her husband Rajeshwar, who was reportedly neglecting the family as he was addicted to liquor. She took her children, Spandana (14) and son Raghuvaran to the well around 3.30 am on Friday. Raghuvaran, who fled from the spot, informed the incident to his maternal grandmother.

Congress betraying all sections: BRS

Farmers and government employees hard hit, says KTR

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) launched a scathing attack on the Congress government accusing it of betraying farmers and government employees. The Congress had failed to deliver on its electoral promises, particularly regarding Rythu Bharosa farm investment support and loan waiver, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said.

He ridiculed the Congress for its inconsistency in implementing Rythu Bharosa farm investment support. "They made grand election slogans on Rythu Bharosa and loan waivers, but now, after Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao's recent comments, Telangana farmers are left confused. They once claimed to support tenant farmers, but now they are backing out, cutting them off without explanation," he remarked.

The BRS working president said the Congress government had earlier deceived farmers by withdrawing Rythu Bharosa investment support for Vaanakalam (Kharif) season and failing to fulfil its complete loan waiver promise. "Today, they refuse to guarantee support for tenant farmers. The Chief Minister is backtracking from the 420 electoral promises made in the Congress manifesto, one after the other. Why make promises you cannot keep? This is nothing but fraud and deception," he said. Rama Rao warned that people of Telangana, especially farmers, will never forgive such betrayal. He stated that the Chief Minister will pay dearly for this deceit. Further, the former Minister also criticised the Congress for its neglect of government employees, accusing it of disregarding their welfare. "The Congress government has failed to implement the government orders issued during the BRS regime, pertaining to the Employees Health Care Trust and left around 20 lakh families in distress. In contrast to the K Chandrashekhar Rao government treating employees like family, the Congress regime is not even releasing funds for their healthcare," he said.

BRS prepares for bypoll

HYDERABAD: Anticipating by-elections in Station Ghanpur Assembly constituency following the High Court's directions on disqualification of defected MLAs, the BRS is intensifying its preparations. Party working president KT Rama Rao held a meeting with senior party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister T Rajaiah in Hyderabad to strategise for the upcoming polls. Rama Rao exuded confidence in emerging victorious once again in Station Ghanpur, signalling a clear intent to reclaim the constituency. Kadiam Srihari who won from the BRS in the constituency during the Assembly elections defected to the ruling Congress. Following this, the BRS filed a disqualification petition to the Speaker against him and a decision is awaited.

During the meeting, the BRS working president outlined plans to strengthen the party's presence in the constituency, including a massive meeting of the party cadre to prepare for the bypoll. He criticised the current MLA Kadiam Srihari for switching parties, describing it as a betrayal of the people's trust and political selfishness. He assured to intensify the party activities to reinvigorate the party in Station Ghanpur.

Rajaiah, who has been confirmed as the BRS candidate for the upcoming elections, vowed to defeat Srihari, accusing him of disregarding people's aspirations. He was tasked with coordinating with local leaders to finalise dates for upcoming meetings.

BRS working president K T Rama Rao with former Deputy Chief Minister T Rajaiah on Friday.

AMRUT row: KTR for Central probe

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao urged the Union government to launch an immediate investigation into alleged corruption in the allocation of AMRUT scheme tenders in Telangana. He stated that tenders worth about Rs 1,500 crore were being awarded to companies linked to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's relatives, specifically his brother-in-law, without following due process.

In a letter addressed to union Ministers for Urban Development Manohar Lal Khattar and Tokhan Sahu on Friday, Rama Rao cited repeated demands from opposition parties, including the BRS and the BJP, for transparency from the State government regarding the tenders. He said the State government had so far failed to respond, raising suspicions of malpractice. He accused the Congress-led Telangana government of conducting secretive deals, deliberately keeping related information about the tenders secret.

"The Municipal Department and other tendering websites have been manipulated to withhold this information from the public," he added. He demanded that the Centre take measures to make all tender-related documents public.

He asked Union Urban Development Ministry to review all tenders awarded over the past nine months under AMRUT. He requested that any tenders violating the rules be cancelled, noting that companies with no qualifications, other than being connected to the CM, were awarded contracts. Rama Rao also drew attention to multiple tenders awarded to CM's brother-in-law Srujan Reddy's company, along with MEIL and KNR. He noted that these companies had been favoured, with inflated estimates exceeding 40% of the projected costs. He said Revanth's brother, Tirupathi Reddy, allegedly holds shares in KNR. "If the Centre fails to act swiftly, it risks being perceived as complicit in the Congress' corrupt practices," he cautioned.

Rs 796 crore Dasara bonus for Singareni workers

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The State government has announced Rs 1.90 lakh Dasara bonus for each of the Singareni workers this year. The government also announced Rs 5,000 bonus each to contract workers.

Addressing mediapersons here on Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said in 2023-24 financial year, the Singareni Collieries Company Limited had recorded a profit of Rs 4,701 crore.

Of this, about 33%, which works out to Rs 796 crore, was being announced as Dasara bonus for the workers, he said. "Over 25,000 contract workers were also getting Dasara bonus," Bhatti Vikramarka said. Compared to last year, this time, the bonus component increased by Rs 20,000 from Rs 1.70 lakh to Rs.1.90 lakh, the Deputy Chief Minister said, adding that the decision was taken after involving unions and SCCL.

Central agency resumes studies on Medigadda barrage

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Central Water and Power Research Institute (CWPRI) has resumed its critical studies on the impacted structures of the Medigadda barrage, a key component of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP).

Tasked with conducting geophysical and geotechnical investigations as recommended by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), CWPRI's efforts were interrupted by the onset of the monsoon season, which brought significant inflows to the barrages. The CWPRI's studies, which began earlier this year, were only halfway complete when the monsoon rains began.

The investigations are set to continue until the end of October. To finalise their studies, CWPRI requires the barrage to be free of water storage for at least a couple of weeks. However, the current inflows are expected to recede only towards the end of October, potentially delaying the completion of the studies. According to sources, the CWPRI team is committed to completing the necessary investigations to ensure the structural integrity and safety of the barrage.

In Brief

MEDAK
Couple kills woman

Police arrested a man and his wife on charges of killing a woman to steal her gold and silver ornaments. The couple, Vallepu Kanakaiah and his wife Prameela, befriended the victim Maloth Lalitha (48) in a toddy compound a few days ago. After consuming toddy, they lured Lalitha to accompany them by promising to take her to Yadadri temple. On their way to the temple on a two-wheeler, they stopped at Peerla Thanda and strangled her to death. Later, they decamped with her gold and silver ornaments. Lalitha's family lodged a missing complaint with the Chegunta police. Police found that the missing woman was last seen with a couple from Masaipet.

SANGAREDDY
Man found dead in lake

The body of an unidentified person was found in Ameenpur Lake on Friday. Police retrieved the body and sent it to the government hospital in Patancheru for postmortem examination. The police were trying to identify the body. They are yet to ascertain whether it was suicide, murder, or an accidental fall. A case was registered in this regard.

SANGAREDDY
ANR Award instituted

The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) has decided to give ANR Award in the field of acting and performing arts. The award is instituted by the family members of Akkineni International Foundation to honour the legacy of the legendary actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao (ANR). This award aims to recognise and support exceptional talent in the field of acting and performing arts, fostering creativity and innovation among aspiring artistes. The award will be conferred on individuals who have made significant contributions to performing arts, encouraging a new generation.

Panel holds inquiry session

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Officials from the Telangana Engineering Research (TERL) Laboratories and the State Dam Safety Organisation appeared before the Judicial Commission led by Justice PC Ghose, which is investigating the construction of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS).

The open inquiry session focused on the structural integrity and safety protocols of Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages. Justice Ghose inquired whether model studies were conducted as required before the construction of the barrages.

TERL officials said model studies were performed three times: before and after construction. The officials highlighted that impounding water on such a large scale could lead to structural issues.

Brimming reservoirs prove Congress wrong: Harish

STATE BUREAU
Siddipet

Former Minister T Harish Rao said the Mallanna Sagar and other reservoirs which are brimming with water have proved that Congress was leading a malicious campaign against the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS). "How can the Irrigation Department pump in 21 tmcft of water into Mallanna Sagar if KLIS is a failure?" Harish questioned.

Rao along with MLCs P Venkatrami Reddy, Dr V Yadava Reddy, Deshapathi Srinivas, Dubbak MLA Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, Narsapur MLA V Sunitha Lakshma Reddy, Vanteru Prathap Reddy, Errolla Srinivas and other leaders visited Mallanna Sagar on Friday to see the brimming reservoir.

Urging the Congress leaders to visit Mallanna Sagar to see the truth, he said that they had also completed 90 per cent of the canals under the project which would benefit farmers in four districts. Rao asked the Congress government to complete the leftover canals if they had any commitment for farmers' issues. The former Minister said every grain of harvest under Mallanna Sagar ayacut would have the name of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao as he had enabled the realisation of the dream of getting Godavari water to Siddipet. Rao said Annapurna Reservoir, Ranganayaka Sagar and Kondapochamma Sagar were also brimming with water as the Irrigation Department lifted water from Mid-Manair to the chain of reservoirs. The pumping of water is still on.

He said the Congress leaders spread a false campaign that KLIS was submerged and it got swept away. Rao said the brimming reservoirs would checkmate all such campaigns against the KLIS, Chandrashekhar Rao, and BRS party.

Harish said the flowing Godavari water in the canals will carry the truth to every nook and corner. He said Chandrashekhar Rao's name would remain etched in the hearts of the farmers forever as they were reaping the fruits of his work. Rao said Congress was carrying out a false campaign saying that the BRS had looted Rs one lakh crore on KLIS though he had clarified time and again that they had spent Rs 93,000 crore. He demanded the Congress government to stop the malicious campaign against KCR now.

Water being released to Mallanna Sagar on Friday. BRS MLAs Harish Rao, K Prabhakar Reddy, Sunitha Laxma Reddy and other party leaders performed special puja on the occasion.

BRS questions govt over changes in RRR alignment

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Former Minister and senior BRS leader Vemula Prashanth Reddy on Friday demanded for a CBI investigation into the changes in the alignment of southern part of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) under the Congress rule. He said the Revanth Reddy-led government is altering the alignment for personal gains. He questioned the rationale behind the changes at four locations, leading to increased length.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan here, Prashanth Reddy criticised the Congress government's move, stating that the alignment was being shifted to benefit Congress leaders at the expense of poor farmers. "The alignment is being adjusted towards lands owned by Congress leaders," he said, citing changes along Sagar Road and Srisailam Road. He also pointed out that Congress leaders were allegedly involved in land grabs through cancellation agreements, specifically mentioning 400 acres of land in Kundaram, where poor farmers were being exploited.

Gadkari urged to intervene

The former Minister urged Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to intervene and ensure that the poor and the underprivileged sections do not suffer because of the Congress leaders' greed. He explained how former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao initially secured central funding for the project. He expressed concerns that the continuous changes in the alignment could derail the entire project. He sought transparency, seeking fair compensation for the poor and tribal communities affected by the alignment changes. He urged union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay to step in and initiate a CBI probe to expose the truth behind the alleged land encroachments and corruption of the Congress leaders.

State forest officials visit Vantara

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

A team of officials from State Forest Department and State Forest Development Corporation visited the Vantara animal shelter in Gujarat to study different aspects and submit a report to the government.

This is after Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed them to set up a zoo park on the city outskirts, preferably in the fourth city. Accordingly, forest officials have identified a few revenue lands abutting Kurumidda, Kadthal, Tadiparthy and other forest blocks in Rangareddy district. The idea was to set up a new zoo park with safari rides and other facilities spread over 200 acres.

Focus on welfare of BCs, BRS urges Congress

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Says new TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar should focus on ensuring that promises made to BCs are fulfilled

BRS leader in Legislative Council, S Madhusudhana Chari, criticised newly appointed Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president B Mahesh Kumar Goud and the Congress for neglecting the welfare of Backward Classes (BCs).

He stated that Mahesh Kumar, who has only been in office for a week, should focus on ensuring that promises made to BCs are fulfilled, instead of merely targeting BRS.

Speaking to mediapersons at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Madhusudhana Chari said the Congress had been historically treating BCs as "vote bank" and failing to deliver on welfare promises. He pointed out that none of the promises made under the much-hyped Kamareddy BC Declaration had been implemented. He reiterated BRS' commitment to ensuring the implementation of the Kamareddy Declaration, warning that BCs should not be exploited for political gains.

"Mahesh Kumar Goud secured his post through the fight for BC Declaration. Hence, he must pressurise the Chief Minister to act on those promises," he remarked. He found fault with the Congress government for allocating only Rs 8,000 crore in the State Budget for BC welfare, against the promised Rs 20,000 crore as per the election manifesto.

Madhusudhana Chari also contrasted Congress' inaction with BRS' efforts under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, noting that Rao consistently supported BCs through various initiatives. He reminded that the former Chief Minister requested the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to establish a separate Ministry for BCs and his leadership in giving BCs prominent roles.

KCR pays tributes to Konda Laxman

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao paid tributes to Konda Laxman Bapuji on his death anniversary, remembering his role as the first-generation leader who championed for Telangana's identity and self-respect. He praised Bapuji for his dedication towards the cause, especially sacrificing his ministerial position in support of statehood. In a statement, Rao recalled how Bapuji offered his Jaladrishyam residence as a a platform for the Telangana movement, despite pressure from anti-Telangana forces in erstwhile AP. He said this gesture remains an unforgettable moment.

Telangana Today
FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

"The tradition and culture of democracy is to ask questions and hold dialogue. Even in religion, there are no higher values than dignity and courtesy

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA
Congress General Secretary

The simultaneous elections will exclude Panchayat elections. The villagers care more about local governance than national policies. If they cannot vote due to logistical issues, their voices will be silenced

SY QURAISHI
Former Chief Election Commissioner

They (BJP) wanted that I should break, but they don't know that I come from Haryana. Haryana's blood runs in my veins. You can break anyone, but not a *Haryanawala*"

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
AAP national convener

Revisit Indus Treaty

It is time Pakistan gave up its intransigent approach and agreed to a review of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), a six-decade old bilateral agreement that has survived several tumultuous events, including wars and diplomatic tensions. While fully safeguarding the spirit of cooperation that defines the landmark treaty, India wants the two countries to revisit the terms of the agreement in view of the changed circumstances that require an honest re-assessment of the obligations. New Delhi has sent a strongly-worded follow-up notice to Islamabad seeking negotiations to review the agreement, citing legitimate ecological and economic concerns. Maintaining the treaty in its current form is no longer feasible given present-day scenarios, and thus requires revision. India has justifiably labelled the treaty as 'one-sided' and suggested that various provisions need reassessment. The two countries are locked in a dispute over two run-of-the-river power projects — the fully operational Kishanganga on the Jhelum, and the under-construction Ratle project on the Chenab. The IWT asks India to "let flow" the waters of these western rivers to Pakistan. At the same time, the treaty allows India to use these rivers' waters for non-consumptive purposes, including projects that use the natural flow of these water bodies. Pakistan, however, has objected to these projects, despite the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration giving India a go-ahead for Kishanganga. Islamabad has also refused intergovernmental negotiations. Mediation by a World Bank-appointed neutral expert would have been the next step under the IWT's dispute resolution mechanism.

> Maintaining the treaty in its current form is not feasible in present-day scenarios, and thus requires revision

The Indus system of rivers comprises three Eastern Rivers — Ravi, Beas and Sutlej and their tributaries — and three Western Rivers — Indus, Jhelum and Chenab and their tributaries. As per the treaty, India controls about 20% of the total water of the Indus system while Pakistan gets about 80%. It is argued that the treaty is unfair to India, given the country's larger size, population and growing water needs. Also, given the political and military tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad, some analysts argue that the treaty gives Pakistan a strategic advantage over India. They claim that India should have more leverage over the western rivers, particularly in times of conflict or heightened tensions. Considering their mutual reliance on precious natural resource, the two nations must realise that the IWT's survival is integral to ensuring regional water security. Intransigence and one-upmanship have made a bilateral settlement elusive. The World Bank-brokered treaty, which has withstood several ups and downs in history, should not be allowed to become hostage to bilateral hostilities. In the surcharged atmosphere post-Uri attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had publicly stated that India would not allow even a "drop of water" to go waste into Pakistan. There were even calls for scrapping the agreement to teach Pakistan a fitting lesson. However, the government did well to resist such a temptation as it would have besmirched the country's image.

Revanth is faltering

The Congress leadership might prefer to distance itself from CM's controversial tactics, especially if they cause national embarrassment

KONATHAM DILEEP

The political dynamics in Telangana are changing fast, with Congress leader Revanth Reddy facing a potential crisis that could have national-level repercussions for the Congress party. The recent High Court ruling urging the Assembly Speaker to take action on defected MLAs within four weeks has placed the Congress in a Catch-22 situation. Political observers say Revanth Reddy has two options now: Try and lure more BRS MLAs — which seems next to impossible, or risk an erosion in his leadership strength.

Poaching Attempts

If the Congress attempts to poach more MLAs from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), it may not only provoke a fierce response from the BRS but also undermine the broader narrative the Congress has built around protecting democratic values, particularly through its "Save Constitution" campaign.

The BRS has already hinted at retaliating against any further poaching attempts by launching campaigns in other States against the Congress. This would escalate the issue beyond Telangana, potentially causing a national embarrassment for the Congress. If the BRS extends the anti-poaching campaign to States like Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Jammu & Kashmir, it could considerably weaken the party's position in the upcoming State Assembly elections.

BRS chief K Chandrashekhar Rao's ability to captivate audiences and effectively critique his opponents is well-known. A national-level campaign led by him could do significant damage to Congress' credibility, particularly concerning party loyalty and ethics. More importantly, it could tarnish the image of Rahul Gandhi which the Congress has carefully cultivated as a central part of its appeal in national politics.

In a Spot

Revanth Reddy finds himself in a difficult position. On the one hand, if he fails to secure additional MLAs, he risks losing face within his party, and his leadership could come under intense scrutiny. On the other hand, if he succeeds, the move could backfire spectacularly, as the BRS will not take it lying down. The Congress high command could find itself cornered and may have no choice but to make Revanth the scapegoat for any fallout.

The likelihood of Revanth being blamed for a potential debacle is real. The Congress leadership might prefer to distance itself from such controversial tactics, especially if they risk damaging the party's image ahead of key elections. If Revanth becomes the "fall guy," it could cost him his Chief Ministerial position and even his political future in Telangana.

Adding to the Congress' troubles is the potential backlash from the national media. The Congress has, in the past, gone to court to disqualify MLAs in other States, decrying poaching. If they now engage in similar behaviour here, they could face accusations of hypocrisy. National media outlets are likely to press the Congress on this issue, questioning its ethics and undermining the party's broader messaging.

Revanth Reddy's position in the Congress has weakened due to a series of events that have sparked displeasure both within the party and among the public. The most prominent sign of this was his inability to secure an appointment with the Congress high command, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, despite travelling to Delhi twice in the past month. The Delhi leadership has seemingly distanced itself from Revanth's initiatives, signalling a loss of confidence in his ability to manage the Telangana unit effectively.

One of the most telling moments in this unfolding drama was the decision by Sonia and Rahul Gandhi not to attend the unveiling of Rajiv Gandhi's statue in Telangana. The inauguration event, initially scheduled for August 20, was meant to commemorate the former Prime Minister's legacy, but the absence of the party's top leaders, when the statue was finally inaugurated on September 18, cast a shadow over the occasion. This decision is being interpreted as a strategic move by the Congress leadership to avoid getting entangled in a brewing controversy.

Wave of Discontent

The placement of Rajiv Gandhi's statue has drawn criticism from segments of the Telangana public, particularly those who feel that the legacy of Telangana's own identity is being overshadowed. There has been notable anger over the fact that Rajiv's statue was placed at a spot where a statue of 'Telangana Talli' was expected. This move has sparked a wave of discontent, with Telangana civic society expressing its concerns directly to the central leadership in Delhi through a formal letter.

> A national-level anti-poaching campaign led by KCR could do significant damage to Congress' credibility, and weaken its position in the upcoming Assembly polls

The backlash highlights the sensitivities surrounding Telangana's unique identity and history. Many believe that the Congress' decision to prioritise Rajiv Gandhi's legacy in this manner undermines the local sentiments and the pride associated with the formation of Telangana as a separate State.

Within the Congress party, the situation has only added to the internal friction. Senior Congress leaders in Telangana, many of whom have been sidelined by Revanth's leadership, are reportedly frustrated by his style of functioning. Revanth's perceived reliance on private groups and his tendency to marginalise senior, long-serving Congress members have led to further dissatisfaction.

The delayed expansion of the Congress party's cabinet in Telangana, even after ten months of governance, has further strained relations between Revanth and the senior leadership in Delhi. Congress veterans have reportedly been voicing their concerns to their media contacts, stating that Revanth's reputation has been severely damaged due to his inability to manage the political dynamics effectively.

The Telangana Congress is definitely at a crossroads. With Revanth Reddy's leadership faltering and the party's senior leaders distancing themselves from local issues, his future hangs in the balance.

(The author is former Director of Digital Media, Telangana)

Letters to the Editor

Unacceptable

This refers to 'A theocrat's sermons on democracy,' (Sep 19). By stating "we cannot consider ourselves Muslims if we are oblivious to the suffering that a Muslim is enduring in Myanmar, Gaza, India, or any other place," the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, does not seem to know the maxim of the proverb "those who live in glass houses should not throw stones." He made this statement a day after thousands of Iranian women took to the streets to protest the compulsory wearing of the hijab. While India and Iran share a long history of economic and cultural ties, the repeated provocations by Iran could undermine this goodwill. Iran must resist clubbing India with other regions and conflicts.

N SADHASIVA REDDY, Washington

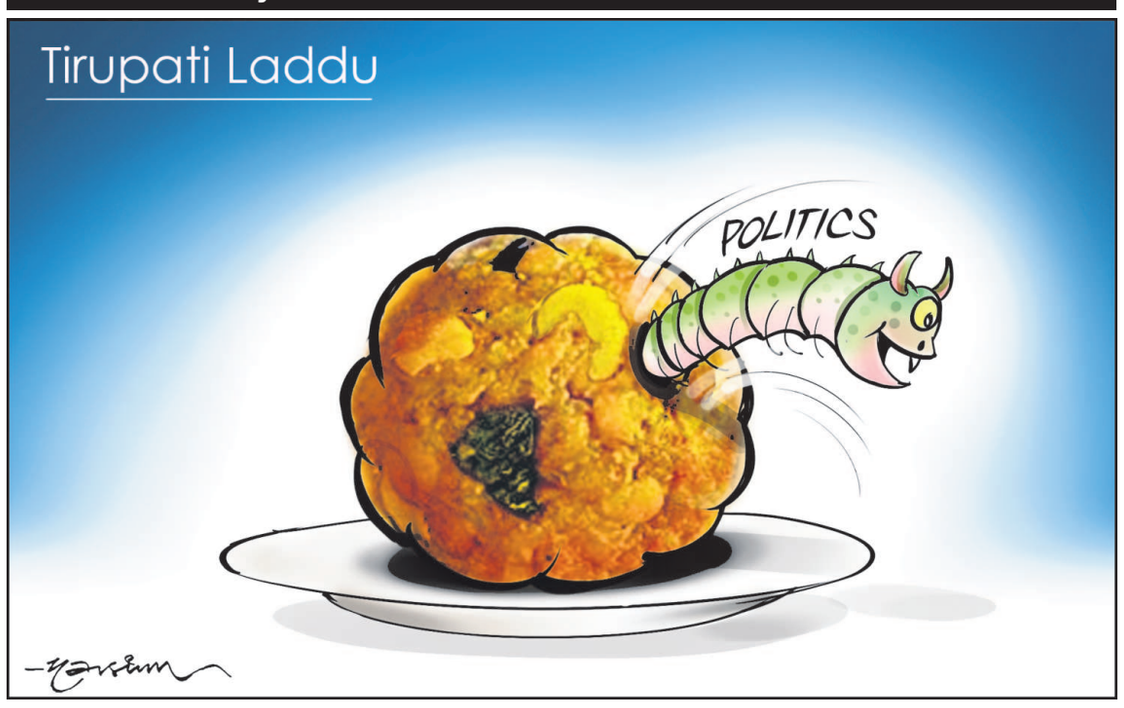
ONOE

The switch to 'One Nation, One Election' is not easy as it requires major constitutional amendments which need a two-thirds majority in both the Houses and ratification by over half the States. As reforms are inevitable which ultimately lead to progress, it is imperative that the Centre takes the States into confidence to arrive at a consensus instead of jumping to a conclusion that Bill would be passed in Parliament.

KR SRINIVASAN, Secunderabad

Write to us at letters@telanganatoday.com

Cartoon Today



India in the hotspot

■ The Economist

Why family empires dominate biz

For many years the hottest event in Indian capitalism was the AGM of Reliance. Thousands, from rickshaw drivers to day labourers, would pile into the Cooperage Football Stadium in Mumbai for a glimpse of Dhirubhai Ambani.

■ BBC

Why are India's biggest film stars silent?

The Hema Committee report is causing seismic upheavals. But the messages of solidarity have come largely from women — and critics say the silence of powerful men, including India's biggest stars, is deafening.

■ Financial Times

Can cricket replicate success of IPL?

Rashid Khan, the 26-year-old Afghan spin bowler is just one beneficiary of a wave of start-up cricket tournaments around the world, all spurred by the soaring success of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

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Surrender or face wrath, naxals told

Shah vows to eliminate Left Wing Extremism by 2026

PTI
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday appealed to naxals to give up violence, lay down arms and surrender, saying an all-out operation will otherwise be carried out against them.

Addressing 55 victims of naxal violence from Chhattisgarh at his residence here, he also asserted that Maoists will take their last breath by March 31, 2026, and will be eliminated by then.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided that naxal violence and ideology will be wiped out from the country. "I appeal to naxals to give up violence, lay down arms and surrender as the militants in the northeast have done. If you do not listen, then an all-out operation will be carried out soon to end the menace," Shah said. He said naxalism is a threat to both humanity and the internal security of the country. The Home Minister said security forces have achieved significant success in their operations against Maoists as the problem is now confined to just a few districts of Chhattisgarh. "The Central government is committed to completely eliminating naxalism by March 2026. Due to the policies of the Modi government, Left Wing Extremism has now been restricted to a few districts in Chhattisgarh," he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses victims of Naxal violence from Chhattisgarh, in New Delhi on Friday. — Photo: PTI

The union Minister said Maoists once had planned to establish a corridor from Pashupatinath (Nepal) to Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) but that was destroyed by the Modi government. He said those advocating the human rights of naxalites should also consider the human rights of those who suffer because of naxalism.

He said the Ministry of Home Affairs will chalk out a comprehensive welfare scheme in the next three months for naxal violence-affected people of Chhattisgarh, in close coordination with the State government. "We will help you in whatever way we can through our welfare measures in jobs, healthcare and other areas," he said.

The Home Minister said through developmental schemes in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, the Modi government has given a message to the Maoists that one who saves human lives is greater than the one who kills.

The Home Minister also interacted with the 55 victims of Naxal violence from Chhattisgarh. They came under the aegis of the Bastar Peace Committee.

Illegal immigrants: Shah slams JMM govt

GIRIDIH: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday lashed out at the JMM-led coalition in Jharkhand for allegedly encouraging "rampant infiltration" and cautioned that if not checked, illegal immigrants will become a majority in the State in the next 25-30 years.

He also alleged that infiltrators were "destroying the tribal culture and identity" and promised to chase them out of the State. Shah claimed that the BJP would form the government in the State with a two-third majority in the upcoming assembly elections.

"If infiltration is not checked, illegal immigrants will become the majority in Jharkhand in the coming 25-30 years. There is no place for infiltrators in the State. They are marrying our daughters, grabbing land and destroying rich tribal culture and heritage...we will drive each one of them out...Let lotus bloom here," Shah said. "The BJP is going to form the government in Jharkhand with a two-third majority", he said, adding that corruption has reached its peak in the State and it is time to give the ruling JMM a befitting reply.

The JMM-led government has "meted out injustice to tribals, Dalit, women and others in the State", he alleged. "It was paradoxical that a rich State like Jharkhand, which has the capacity to fill the country's treasury, has been experiencing a mass exodus of its youths in search of greener pastures," he said.

Shah said the UPA regime at the Centre gave "only Rs 84,000 crore to Jharkhand in 10 years while PM Modi sanctioned Rs 3.81 lakh crore". "We will check the 'Ganga river of corruption' in Jharkhand and prevent it from merging with the sea. We will hang corrupt people and make Jharkhand the number one State." PTI

Taste Of Own Medicine

A Pune Municipal Corporation vehicle is stuck after falling into a caved-in portion of a road on Friday. — Photo: PTI

TIRUPATI LADDU ROW

TTD EO vows to ensure sanctity of *laddu prasadams*

Syamala Rao says suppliers took undue advantage of absence of in-house labs

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Executive Officer J Syamala Rao said there would not be any compromise on the quality of ghee used for making laddu prasadams and stressed the need to protect the sanctity and divinity of Tirumala Divyakshetram and laddu prasadam.

TTD Executive Officer J Syamala Rao addressing media persons in Tirumala on Friday.

Addressing media persons in Tirumala on Friday, the EO said there were five suppliers — Premier Agri Foods, Kriparam Diary, Vaishnavi, Sri Parag Milk and AR Dairy — for supply of ghee to TTD. The rates they quoted were between Rs 320 and Rs 411 a kg. However, prima facie, these rates were not viable for supplying pure ghee, he said.

All firms were warned by the new administration to ensure good quality ghee. They were informed that samples would be sent to outside labs for testing for adulteration and would be blacklisted, if found positive, he said. "Even after warning, four ghee tankers sent by AR Foods are prima facie found to be of substandard quality," Syamala Rao said. After receiving feedback from pilgrims over the poor quality of laddus in the last few years, besides interacting with potu workers (laddu makers), for the first time, the TTD had sent ghee supplies to an outside lab for adulteration testing.

The S-value analysis carried out on the sample sent to the reputed NDDB CALF, fell outside the standard limits, suggesting the presence of foreign fats such as soya bean, sunflower, palm kernel fat or even lard and beef tallow, he said.

The acceptable S-value range for pure milk fat was between 98.05 and 104.32, but the tested sample showed values ranging from 23.22 and 116, reflecting significant deviations. These samples also indicated the presence of vegetable oil contamination, he stressed.

The reason for lack of quality was not having an in-house lab and the suppliers took undue advantage of these deficiencies. The NDDB has come forward to donate ghee adulteration testing equipment, which would cost Rs 75 lakh, he said. "The equipment is likely to come up by December or January as a permanent solution," the TTD EO said, adding that the TTD temporarily stalls cow-based products used for making Srivari Prasadams.

The EO also said complaints were pouring in from devotees over the taste and quality of Anna Prasadams. Accordingly, TTD has formed a committee of experts and found that there were deficiencies in quality, he said. "Supplies were temporarily suspended. After a thorough examination, a decision will be taken whether to restore the same or not," he said.

Letter petition seeks SC intervention

NEW DELHI

A letter petition has been addressed to Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud seeking the urgent intervention of the Supreme Court into the alleged presence of animal fat in ghee used in making Tirumala laddus.

The plea comes in light of recent revelations about the use of animal fat in the preparation of prasadam offered to the deity at the Tirumala Tirupati temple under the tenure of the previous management of the TTD Trust.

"Recent investigations have revealed a disturbing truth that non-vegetarian products, specifically bird meat (kolis), were used in the preparation of prasadam during the tenure of the previous TTD Trust management," said the plea filed through advocate Satyam Singh.

It added that this act not only violates the fundamental tenets of Hindu religious customs, but also strikes at the very core of our religious practices and beliefs. Further, it said the use of non-vegetarian products in prasadam preparation strikes at the heart of this constitutional protection, when Article 25(1) states that all persons are "equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion".

> States incident violates fundamental tenets of Hindu customs, strikes at core of religious practices and beliefs

"The preparation and distribution of prasadam is an integral part of Hindu religious practice, deeply rooted in tradition and spiritual significance. By contaminating this sacred offering with non-vegetarian elements, the temple management has effectively denied devotees their right to practise their religion as prescribed by their faith," stated the plea. IANS

Supplier says labs certified product quality

CHENNAI: AR Dairy, a company that supplied ghee to the Tirupati Lord Balaji temple, on Friday said their product samples have been duly cleared by authorities certifying its quality. The Dindigul-based firm's spokespersons said only during June and July they supplied ghee to the temple, with accredited lab reports, they said. PTI

Suits BJP to allow polarising theories: Cong

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Friday said if claims of "desecration" of the Tirupati laddu are right, a full-fledged enquiry must identify the guilty, but if they are wrong or motivated, millions of devotees will not forgive those playing with their faith. In a post on X, Pawan Khera said, "It suits BJP to allow polarising conspiracy theories in election season," he said. PTI

In Brief

KOCHI
Woman actor booked

The Kerala police on Friday registered a case under the POCSO Act against a woman actor, who is the complainant in rape and sexual harassment cases involving Malayalam cinema personalities. The police registered the case against the actor based on a complaint filed by her female relative. The woman raised allegations against the actor for running a sex racket and alleged that she was taken to Chennai for an audition where she was presented before many for sexual favours. PTI

NEW DELHI
Railway staff for bonus

A section of railway employees have written to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, demanding the productivity-linked bonus they receive each year before Dasara should be calculated based on the Seventh Pay Commission instead of the sixth. National General Secretary of Indian Railways Employee Federation Sarvjeet Singh said the minimum payment of the productivity-linked bonus is being made based on the minimum salary of Rs 7,000 of the Sixth Pay Commission. PTI

SRINAGAR
Three BSF troopers dead

At least three BSF troopers were killed, while nine others injured when a bus carrying the forces' personnel for election duty met with an accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday, officials said. A hired bus carrying BSF jawans for election duty for the second phase of the Assembly polls fell into a gorge near Brel of Watarhaal in Budgam district of central Kashmir, the officials said. Around a dozen jawans were injured in the accident, who were rushed to a hospital, the officials said. PTI

HC strikes down IT Rules on fake news

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court held as unconstitutional and struck down the amended IT Rules which sought to identify fake and false content on social media against the government.

The matter was assigned to Justice AS Chandurkar as 'tie-breaker judge', after a division Bench in January delivered a split verdict on the petitions challenging the amended IT rules. Justice Chandurkar on Friday held that the rules violated constitutional provisions.

"I have considered the matter extensively. The impugned rules are violative of Article 14 (right to equality), 19 (freedom of speech and expression) and 19(1)(g) (freedom and right to profession) of the Constitution of India," the judge said. The expression "fake, false and misleading" in the Rules was "vague and hence wrong" in the absence of any definition, he added.

With this ruling, the HC allowed the petitions filed by standup comedian Kunal Kamra and others challenging the new rules, including the provision to set up a Fact Checking Unit (FCU) to identify fake or false content about the government. The petitions against the IT Rules were referred to Justice Chandurkar after a division Bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale delivered a split verdict in January.

While Justice Patel struck down the Rules, Justice Gokhale upheld them.

Justice Patel had said the Rules amounted to censorship, but Justice Gokhale had opined they did not have any `chilling effect' on free speech as argued. PTI

Lalu will be jailed in IRCTC case, says BJP

PATNA

The BJP on Friday claimed that the RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav will land in jail soon after the Ministry of Home Affairs approved CBI to proceed with the case against him (Lalu Yadav) in the IRCTC land-for-job case.

"Lalu Prasad and his family will face the consequences of their corrupt practices. The approval from the Home Ministry makes it inevitable that Lalu will land in jail soon. His misuse of political power will be remembered as a dark chapter in the country's history," said Nikhil Anand, the national general secretary of BJP's OBC wing.

Anand further accused Lalu Prasad of sheltering corruption and exploiting the rights of Dalits and backward classes. IANS

Odisha sexual assault: Father wants cops arrested, dismissed

BHUBANESWAR

The father of the woman, who was allegedly sexually assaulted at a police station in Bhubaneswar, on Friday demanded the arrest and dismissal of the cops for taking the law into their hands.

The woman's father, who is a retired Brigadier, said: "The police personnel have violated several laws by putting an Army officer in the lock up, physically assaulting him, sexually harassing my daughter."

While condemning the September 15 incident at the Bharatpur police station here where his daughter was subjected to sexual assault, the father said: "They (cops) have not just committed crime, rather their acts can be termed as heinous crime. They must be punished." The father demanded the arrest and dismissal of the accused police personnel for violating the law of the land. "They (police) too have come up with a false narrative and arrested my daughter. My daughter was sexually assaulted in custody. She suffered bruises on her face and body," he said. PTI

Patnaik seeks SIT probe

BHUBANESWAR: Former Odisha Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Friday demanded a court-monitored SIT probe and a judicial inquiry into the alleged sexual assault of an army officer's fiancé in police custody. Patnaik, the leader of opposition in the Assembly, condemned the incident and termed it as "very shocking". "We demand a full judicial inquiry into this matter and action must be taken very quickly," Patnaik said. PTI

SCW begins investigation

BHUBANESWAR: Taking suo-motu cognisance of the alleged sexual assault of a fiancé of an Army officer in Bharatpur police station, the Odisha State Commission for Women (SCW) on Friday started an investigation into the incident. SCW Chairperson Minati Behera visited the Bharatpur police station on Friday to inquire about the incident. She held discussions with the staff and collected some related documents. PTI

Dalit girl gang-raped in moving car

MATHURA

A Dalit girl was gang-raped allegedly by three persons here in a moving car, after which she was thrown on the side of a road, police said on Friday.

An FIR has been lodged against the accused following a complaint from the minor's father and efforts are on to arrest the trio, they added. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Trigun Bisen said the girl, who is around 13 years old, has been sent to the district women's hospital for a medical examination, after which her statement will be recorded before the magistrate.

Citing the complaint lodged by the girl's father, the SP said the incident took place on Thursday when the the minor went to a shop in her neighbourhood to buy items for breakfast.

At the shop, a man named Neeraj allegedly gave her a bottle of water laced with sedatives. As soon as she drank the water, she started feeling dizzy and fainted, the complaint said.

Neeraj, his friend Shailendra and another associate then allegedly took her away in a car. They raped the girl in the moving car while she was in a semi-conscious state and threw her out under the flyover of Barsana Road before fleeing. On regaining consciousness, the girl reached home and informed her parents about the incident, the complaint added.

According to the SP, the condition of the girl deteriorated and the family took her to a doctor, who also confirmed that she was raped. Following this, her parents filed a complaint at the Chhata police station. PTI

‘Tukde tukde’ gang running Cong, says PM

Ghost of hatred has entered Congress, dubs it “most corrupt”

PTI
WARDHA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the “ghost of hatred” has entered the Congress and dubbed it as the “most corrupt” party which he alleged was being run by the “tukde tukde” gang or divisive elements and urban Naxals. Further targeting the main opposition party, Modi maintained the 138-year-old outfit has come to hate even Ganpati puja, remarks coming days after he offered prayers to Lord Ganesh’s idol at Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud’s New Delhi home, drawing criticism from political opponents. “The Congress which you see today is not the party with which a great man like Mahatma Gandhi was associated,” the PM noted, addressing a public meeting at Wardha in Maharashtra organised on the completion of one year of the launch of Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana. “The ghost of hatred has entered the Congress. In today’s Congress the soul of patriotism has breathed its last,” the BJP stalwart asserted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an exhibition of the Vishwakarma 2024, in Maharashtra on Friday. — Photo: PTI

Modi also spoke of “anti-India agendas” of Congress leaders in their speeches abroad, without naming that party’s MP Rahul Gandhi, who is facing flak from the ruling dispensation for his remarks in the US on scrapping the reservation system and on the Sikh community. “If there is a corrupt party it is the Congress and the most corrupt family is its ‘shahi parivar’ (royal family),” Modi said, without naming the Gandhi family. “The Congress hates Ganpati puja as well,” Modi said. “I went to a Ganesh puja programme and Congress criticised it for appeasement politics. Ganpati Bappa was put behind bars in Karnataka (ruled by Congress). A Ganpati idol was put in a police van,” he pointed out.

The PM noted Congress allies in Maharashtra, which include the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP (SP), kept mum and did not take a stand on Ganpati Bappa’s insult.

In an apparent reference to the ensuing State Assembly elections, Modi said, “In Maharashtra, we have to be aware of their duplicity.” “Falsehood and betrayal are the hallmark of the Congress and the people of Maharashtra should beware of the party,” he insisted. The Congress used farmers only for politics and corruption, Modi alleged. “We should not give another chance to the Congress, which destroyed farmers,” the PM cautioned, adding the party did not fulfil its pre-election promises in Telangana after coming to power in the southern State late last year.

Modi noted SC, ST and OBC communities are the biggest beneficiaries of the Vishwakarma Yojana, which seeks to empower traditional artisans and craftsmen by providing them with financial support, skill training and modern tools. “The Congress did not allow SCs, STs and OBCs to prosper. Our vision is to ensure the beneficiaries don’t remain just artisans, but also become entrepreneurs,” he noted.

The PM insisted his government wants to take the textile industry to the global market and restore its past glory.

Modi said the British rulers had conspired to finish off India’s traditional skills. Mahatma Gandhi gave a boost to rural traditional skills, but governments after Independence did not give justice to the Vishwakarma community, leading to decline in the sector, Modi said.

Indian equity indices hit all-time high

Sensex surges 1,359 points, Nifty near 25,800

MUMBAI

It was a historic day for Indian equity indices on Friday as Sensex, Nifty, and Nifty Bank closed at an all-time high. At closing, Sensex was up 1,359 points, or 1.63 per cent, at 84,544 and Nifty was up 375 points, or 1.48 per cent, at 25,790. Nifty Bank was up 755 points, or 1.42 per cent, at 53,793.

Intraday, all three benchmark indices made a new all-time high of 84,694, 25,849 and 54,066 respectively. Buying was also seen in the midcap and smallcap stocks.

The Nifty midcap 100 index settled at 60,208, up 856 points or 1.44 per cent and the Nifty smallcap 100 index closed at 19,332, up 187 points or 0.98 per cent.

Twenty-six out of 30 stocks in the Sensex pack closed in the green. M&M, JSW Steel, ICICI Bank, L&T, Bharti Airtel, Nestle, HUL, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki, and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the top gainers. SBI, IndusInd Bank, TCS, and Bajaj Finance were the top losers.

Almost all sectoral indices closed in the green. Auto, IT, fin service, pharma, metal, realty, FMCG and energy were major gainers. Krishna Appala, Senior Research Analyst at Capitalmind Research said: “Indian markets hit an all-time high as they cheered the Fed’s rate cut. The Nifty rose 1.2 per cent this week, with Bank Nifty being the best performer, up 2.5 per cent and also reaching an all-time high.”

“Initially, the reaction followed a typical ‘buy the rumour, sell the news pattern, but within a day, the market resumed its upward trend, hitting an all-time high. This is positive for the long term, particularly for sectors like Financials, Pharma, and IT, where we expect demand to pick up,” he said. IANS

In Brief

NAGPUR

Firecrackers injure seven

Seven women were injured, four of them seriously, due to firecrackers during a Ganesh idol immersion procession in Nagpur district, an official said on Friday. The incident occurred on Thursday night at Umred town, some 60 km from the district headquarters. A procession by the ‘Sivasneh Ganesh Mandal’ was making its way to the Shri Krishna temple amid fireworks when the accident happened. According to eyewitnesses, a mandal member was bursting firecrackers when some flew off and exploded among those gathered to watch the procession, triggering a stampede-like situation. PTI

NEW DELHI

SC relief for law students

In a major relief for final-year students, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the Bar Council of India (BCI) to allow them to appear this year for the All India Bar Examination (AIBE), a qualifying test for enrolling law graduates as lawyers. Observing that the final year LLB students cannot be “left in lurch”, the top court said their one year will be wasted if they are not permitted to take the bar exam this year. A Bench got irked over the non-framing of rules for the AIBE by the BCI in pursuance of a five-judge constitution Bench judgement of 2023 on the issue. PTI

NEW DELHI

‘Focus on food safety’

Health Minister J P Nadda on Friday stressed the need for rigorous food safety standards and an adaptable regulatory framework to address innovative food trends such as plant-based proteins, insect proteins, and lab-grown meat. Speaking at the inaugural session of a two-day global food regulators summit in the national capital, Nadda emphasised the importance of widespread adoption of organic farming globally to mitigate the risks posed by pesticide residues in food.Nadda called for greater adoption of organic farming globally. PTI

YSRCP leader held in Mumbai model case

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Police on Friday arrested K Vidyasagar, a YSRCP leader, from Dehradun as part of a case registered against him by a Mumbai-based actress-cum-model, said a police official.

On September 13, the model filed the case at the Ibrahimpatnam police station in Vijayawada, prompting the city police to register a case under IPC Sections 192, 211, 218, 220, 354 (D), 467, 420 and others. “As part of the investigation, police teams searched for Vidyasagar in Delhi and Dehradun areas. Today, he was arrested at Tree of Life resort...Dehradun, Uttarakhand,” Vijayawada Police Commissioner S V Rajasekhar Babu said in a press release.

He was produced in a local court at Dehradun and is being brought to Vijayawada to be produced in the relevant court here.

The Mumbai-based actress-cum-model was allegedly harassed by the erstwhile YSRCP government. She recently met Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha and requested protection. She exuded confidence that the TDP-led NDA government would take all the necessary steps to rectify the wrongdoings that happened to her and her family during the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led regime. Recently, the AP government also suspended three senior IPS officers for their alleged involvement in ‘hastily arresting’ and ‘harassing’ the actress in February. PTI

Quad to address maritime security

WASHINGTON

The Quad summit in Delaware will feature ambitious announcements in multiple areas such as maritime security, high-quality infrastructure and critical and emerging technologies to demonstrate the group’s endurance, a top White House official has said.

US President Joe Biden will host PM Modi, Anthony Albanese of Australia and Kishida Fumio of Japan for the fourth in-person Quad Leaders’ Summit on Saturday, September 21.

“This year’s Quad Summit will feature ambitious announcements in the areas in which the Quad has grown and is used to working and where Indo-Pacific partners prioritise the Quad’s delivery. These include health security, humanitarian and disaster response, maritime security, high-quality infrastructure, critical and emerging technologies, climate and clean energy, and cyber security,” Mira Rapp-Hooper, White House NSC Senior Director for East Asia and Oceania, said. PTI

‘Ex principal awarded contracts illegally’

KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials probing the case of financial irregularities in state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital have secured crucial clues about how its former principal, Sandip Ghosh had illegally awarded contracts for sophisticated and technical projects to a particular business entity which did not have the requisite expertise and experience in the field.

One such example, said sources, was related to the setting up of a skilled laboratory for medical students at RG Kar, the contract for which was awarded to Ghosh’s confidant Maa Tara Traders, whose owner Biplab Sinha is already in judicial custody in the financial irregularities case. Sources said the most crucial clause of the concerned entity having requisite expertise and experience in implementing similar technical projects was overlooked in this case.

Secondly, sources said, the bid price at which the contract was awarded to Maa Tara traders for implementing the said projects was doubtfully high. While the contract was awarded to Maa Tara Traders at a bid price of little over Rs 2.97 crore, there was an example at the same point of time of a similar skill laboratory being set up at another medical college and hospital at a price of just around Rs 70 lakh.

Sources said that the investigating officials are now investigating how much Ghosh personally gained financially by awarding the contract to an entity without requisite expertise and that too at a much higher rate than the standard rates for such projects.

Junior doctors take part in a march to CBI office after announcing a partial withdrawal of their cease work, in Kolkata on Friday, — Photo: PTI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is conducting a parallel probe into the case, has secured crucial clues on how Sinha, the owner of Maa Tara Traders, had floated multiple business entities to bag contracts for the supply of medical and non-medical material and maintenance-related work orders in the hospital. IANS

Mamata writes to Modi, says will sever ties with DVC

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating that the State would sever all ties with Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) for “unilaterally releasing water” which led to floods in south Bengal districts.

In a four-page letter to Modi, she claimed that five million people in Bengal had been affected by the floods and requested him to immediately sanction and release central funds to address the widespread devastation caused by the deluge. “I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that as a result of an unprecedented, unplanned, and unilateral release of an enormously huge volume of water at nearly five lakh cusec from the combined system of Maithon and Panchet dams owned and maintained by the DVC, all districts of South Bengal have been plunged into devastating floods causing severe-miseries to the common people,” Banerjee wrote.

“If this unilateral approach continues, bringing hardship to the people of my state, we will be left with no option but to disengage entirely from DVC and withdraw our participation. We cannot allow this ongoing injustice to affect our people year after year,” she warned. The flood-hit Bengal districts are Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Birbhum, Bankura, Howrah, Hooghly, and among other districts, she claimed. PTI

Deloitte panel to review employee policies

NEW DELHI

Amid a social media storm over the death of a young employee at tax consultancy major EY allegedly due to work pressure, Deloitte has formed a three-member external committee, which includes former revenue secretary Tarun Bajaj, to look into practices, policies and processes concerning employees, its South Asia CEO Romal Shetty said on Friday.

Shetty said to manage the work pressure within the organisation and have an open work culture, Deloitte has a chief happiness officer and takes strict action for any bad behaviour within the organisation.

Deloitte is one of the four major global tax consultancy firms. Besides Deloitte and EY, the other major firms are PwC and KPMG.

“... Very unfortunate, very tragic, young child losing her life. We are in the client service business and the client service business there will always be deadlines... having all of those pressures,” Shetty said.

Anna Sebastian Perayil, who passed her CA exam in 2023 and worked at the EY Pune office for four months, died in July. According to a letter her mother wrote to EY India chairman Rajiv Memani, she was overworked with a “backbreaking” load as a new employee that affected her “physically, emotionally, and mentally”.

Shetty dismissed any bullying culture within organisations that have been built over 100-150 years but did not rule out any individual transgressions.

“... Bullying culture is not normally the way professional organizations are. But are there individuals who do certain things? Yes, absolutely... So first, I think, as an organization, you need to have an open culture that nobody should be scared to bring up those issues.” Shetty said Deloitte on Friday has instituted a panel of three eminent and independent people after the tragic loss of life of 26-year-old Anna Sebastian Perayil at EY. PTI

Pakistan faces $100 bn loan repayment

ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan is facing the daunting task of repaying a staggering $100 billion external debt over the next four years, the government said.

The $100 billion external debt repayments from 2024 to 2027 are exclusive of any payments on account of liabilities booked at the balance sheet of the central bank and requirements for financing the current account deficit, according to a report in *The Express Tribune*. PTI

Siddaramaiah blames BJP for provoking communal riots

SURU (KARNATAKA)

Accusing the BJP of instigating and provoking communal riots in the State, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday charged that the party was responsible for the unrest.

Speaking to the media at the Mysuru airport on the repeated stone-pelting incidents during the Ganesh Visarjan, CM Siddaramaiah maintained that the question of the media is wrong. Do you know how many Ganesh idols were installed and immersion processions are being taken out in the State? The questions should not be asked without proper facts and figures, he slammed.

The Chief Minister stated that there were around 60,000 Ganesh idol installations this year in the Karnataka state. Only two incidents of violence were reported.

Stone-pelting took place in Davanagere city, and riots occurred in Nagamangala town. In both incidents, the negligence by the police was evident. The DYSP had been suspended in this regard, he added. When asked about the Lokayukta not investigating the de-notification cases against union Minister HDKumaraswamy and former CM B.S. Yeddyurappa since 2021, the CM responded that yesterday (Thursday), Ministers including Dinesh Gundu Rao, Krishna Byre Gowda, and Santosh Lad released documents related to the case. He said that the land involved in the de-notification case was highly valuable and that Kumaraswamy had de-notified it for his close relatives. IANS

Israel strike kills top Hezbollah leader

12 killed, many injured as Tel Aviv launches rare strike on Beirut

People gather in front of a building targeted by an Israeli strike in Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday. — Photo: AFP

AP
BEIRUT

Israel launched a rare airstrike that killed a senior Hezbollah military official in a densely populated southern Beirut neighborhood on Friday, the Israeli army said.

It was the deadliest such attack on Lebanon's capital in years, with Lebanese health authorities reporting at least 12 people killed and dozens more wounded in the attack. The Israeli military's chief spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said the strike on Beirut's southern Dahiya district targeted and killed Ibrahim Akil, a commander of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force, as well as 10 other Hezbollah operatives.

Hezbollah did not immediately confirm the claim of Akil's killing, which came as a flurry of tit-for-tat bombardments between the enemies raised fears of a full-out war erupting in the Middle East. The Israeli military did not elaborate on the identities of the other commanders allegedly killed in the strike on the crowded urban neighbourhood.

Hezbollah did not immediately confirm the claim of Ibrahim Akil's killing, which came as a flurry of tit-for-tat bombardments

Lebanon's Health Ministry said at least 12 people were killed and 66 others were wounded. It was not immediately clear if the Ministry's death toll included Akil. Nine of the wounded were in serious condition, it said. A Hezbollah official confirmed that Akil was supposed to be in the building that was hit but gave no further information. Akil has served on Hezbollah's highest military body, the Jihad Council, and has been sanctioned by the United States for being involved in two terrorist attacks in 1983 that killed more than 300 people at the US Embassy in Beirut and the US Marine Corps barracks. Lebanese networks broadcast footage showing first responders combing through the rubble of two flattened apartment buildings in the Jamous area, where Hezbollah conducts many of its political and security operations.

Hours earlier on Friday, Hezbollah pounded northern Israel with 140 rockets as the region awaited the revenge promised by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah over this week's mass bombing attack on pagers and walkie-talkies belonging to Hezbollah members. Hezbollah portrayed the heavier-than-normal bombardment as a response to past Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon, not as revenge for the explosions of Hezbollah pagers on Tuesday and Wednesday that killed at least 20 people and wounded thousands in sophisticated attacks widely attributed to Israel.

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied involvement in those attacks, which signaled a major escalation in the past 11 months of simmering conflict along the Israel-Lebanon border. Israel and Hezbollah have traded fire regularly since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel ignited the Israeli military's devastating offensive in Gaza.

But previous cross-border attacks have largely struck areas in northern Israel that had been evacuated and less-populated parts of southern Lebanon.

Israel asks residents to stay near shelters

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military instructed residents in dozens of northern communities to stay near shelters and avoid non-essential outdoor activities due to "retaliation" from Hezbollah. Thousands of pagers and handheld radios used by Hezbollah members exploded across Lebanon on Tuesday and Wednesday. Lebanese Health Minister Firas Abiad said the blasts resulted in at least 37 fatalities and 2,931 injuries. Although Israel has not claimed responsibility for the explosions, Hezbollah has attributed the incidents to Israel and vowed to retaliate.

Residents in the Upper Galilee and the occupied Golan Heights were on Thursday night requested to minimise movement, avoid gatherings, monitor gates at the entrances to communities, and remain close to shelters, Xinhua news agency reported. The unusual restrictions were issued by the Home Front Command after dozens of Israeli warplanes carried out one of the largest-scale attacks in Lebanon. After hours of intensive strikes that began in the afternoon, the Israeli military announced just before midnight that the operation was complete. IANS

Qatar Airways prohibits pagers, walkie-talkies

DOHA: Qatar Airways has prohibited passengers travelling from Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport from bringing pagers and walkie-talkies on flights. The move comes after several walkie-talkies and pagers exploded in Lebanon, post which the country issued a directive prohibiting such things on flights. On Thursday, the airline on X, said that the regulations would be in place until further notice. "Effective immediately: Following the directive received from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of the Republic of Lebanon, all passengers flying from Beirut Rafic Harirl International Airport are prohibited from carrying pagers and walkie-talkies on board flights," it said. IANS

US Defence Secretary was told of op in Lebanon

WASHINGTON: Israel warned US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin in a call Tuesday that a military operation was going to take place in Lebanon but gave no details, US officials said Thursday.

The same day of the call, in an attack widely blamed on Israel, thousands of pagers belonging to Hezbollah militants exploded. The call was one of four between Austin and Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant this week as attacks have spiked between Israel and Hezbollah, fuelling worries that they could escalate into a wider regional war.

The two spoke again later Tuesday, and the US has acknowledged being briefed following the attack. There was another call Wednesday, and they also spoke Sunday, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private talks. The officials said the US did not get advance warning of the second wave of attacks, with walkie-talkie radios targeted Wednesday. At least 37 people were killed, including two children, and some 3,000 wounded in the two days of explosions. The officials stressed that the US played no role in the attacks and said they were surprised by the specifics of the operations.

Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh on Thursday acknowledged the four calls but did not provide timelines of when they happened. She said the US has not made any changes in its force posture in the region as a result of the recent surge in attacks. AP

Trump vows to be 'best friend' of Jewish Americans

WASHINGTON

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump at the Israeli American Council National Summit. — Photo:AP

Former President Donald Trump on Thursday decried antisemitism hours after an explosive CNN report detailed how one of his allies running for North Carolina Governor made a series of racial and sexual comments on a website where he also referred to himself as a "black NAZI."

North Carolina Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson vowed to remain in the race despite the report, and the Trump campaign appeared to be distancing itself from the candidate while still calling the battleground State a vital part to winning back the White House.

Trump has frequently voiced his support for Robinson, who has been considered a rising star in his party despite a history of inflammatory remarks about race and abortion. Trump did not comment on the allegations during his Thursday addresses to a group of Jewish donors and to the Israeli-American Council in Washington. His campaign issued a statement about the CNN story that did not mention Robinson, saying instead that Trump "is focused on winning the White House and saving this country" and that North Carolina was a "vital part of that plan."

Trump appeared Thursday with Miriam Adelson, a co-owner of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks and widow of billionaire casino magnate Sheldon Adelson. "My promise to Jewish Americans is this: With your vote, I will be your defender, your protector, and I will be the best friend Jewish Americans have ever had in the White House," Trump said during the donor event in Washington, titled 'Fighting Anti-Semitism in America.' "But in all fairness, I already am," Trump added.

Trump also has been criticised for his association with extremists who spew antisemitic rhetoric such as far-right activist Nick Fuentes and rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West. And when former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke endorsed Trump in 2016, Trump responded in a CNN interview that he knew "nothing about David Duke, I know nothing about white supremacists." AP

Voters split on who would do better job on economy: Poll

WASHINGTON: Going into November's election, neither Kamala Harris nor Donald Trump has a decisive edge with the public on the economy, turning an issue that was once a clear strength for Trump into the equivalent of a political jump ball.

About 4 in 10 registered voters say Republican Trump would do a better job handling the economy, while a similar number say that about the Democratic Vice-President, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. About 1 in 10 voters don't trust either candidate, and a similar share has equal faith in them.

The finding is a warning sign for Trump, who has tried to link Harris to President Joe Biden's economic track record. The new poll suggests that Harris may be escaping some of the President's baggage on the issue, undercutting what was previously one of Trump's major advantages. AP

6 Pak forces killed in terror attack

PESHAWAR

Six security forces personnel were killed and 11 others injured in a terror attack on a security check post early on Friday in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, officials said. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to officials, a group of militants attacked the security check post in Mishta village at Ladha tehsil in South Waziristan district resulting in the death of six security forces personnel and injury to 11 others. An official source said a clearance operation is underway to neutralise the threat. The attack comes amidst rising tensions in the region.

In another incident, seven militants were killed and two security personnel injured in an exchange of fire on Friday at Azam Warsak area in South Waziristan. The gunfight took place after the militants, who were on a move, were intercepted by the security personnel. The Pakistani government has repeatedly accused the TTP of operating from sanctuaries in Afghanistan, a claim denied by the Afghan Taliban.

There has been an uptick in the incidents of terrorism in Pakistan since the Taliban took over the government in Kabul in 2021. PTI

15 killed overnight in Gaza attacks

JERUSALEM

Palestinian authorities said 15 people were killed overnight in the Gaza Strip in multiple Israeli attacks. An airstrike early Friday in Gaza City hit a family home, killing six people including an unknown number of children.

Another person was killed in Gaza City when a strike hit a group of people on a street. Israel maintains it only targets militants and accuses Hamas and other armed groups of endangering civilians by operating in residential areas. The military, which rarely comments on individual strikes, had no immediate comment. Gaza's Health Ministry says more than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed in the territory since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.

The Ministry does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count but says a little over half of those killed were women and children. Israel said it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence. Meanwhile, the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah is promising to retaliate for deadly attacks on its communication devices after Israel's Defence Minister announced a "new phase" of the war. AP

Indian defecates at mall entrance, fined

SINGAPORE

A 37-year-old construction worker from India was fined SGD400 on Thursday for defecating at the entrance of 'The Shoppes' mall at Marina Bay Sands, a casino resort on October 30 last year.

An image of Ramu Chinnarasa committing the act went viral on Facebook last October, garnering more than 1,500 likes, 1,700 comments and 4,700 shares in about two days. Before that, Ramu had drunk three bottles of hard liquor and was gambling inside the Marina Bay Sands casino, according to TODAY report. At about 5 am, he left the casino. He wanted to relieve himself but could not go to the toilet because he was still heavily intoxicated.

So, outside a restaurant near the entrance of Marina Bay Sands at 7.01 am, Ramu took off his pants, squatted and defecated on the floor. He then left the building and slept on one of the stone benches outside Marina Bay Sands. Deputy Public Prosecutor Adelle Tai said that a security officer saw a post containing a video of Ramu defecating later that day and made a police report. PTI

Trash balloon lands in Seoul govt complex

SEOUL

A North Korean trash-carrying balloon landed inside the Seoul government complex for the second time on Friday, authorities said. The balloon was found in the parking lot in front of the main entrance, carrying mostly household garbage, including a green piece of plastic showing an address in Pyongyang, Yonhap news agency reported.

Firefighters and police officers cordoned off the area before military officials arrived to check for any hazardous substances or contaminants and collected the garbage. North Korea has launched thousands of trash-carrying balloons toward the South since late May. IANS

Mob burns body of blasphemy accused in Pak

KARACHI

A mob has burnt the corpse of a doctor who was accused of blasphemy and later killed by a policeman in Pakistan's Sindh province, preventing the family from carrying out his burial.

Dr Shahnawaz Kanbar was killed in a shootout with police in Sindh province amidst allegations of blasphemy that prompted him to flee near Mirpurkhas, approximately 250 km northeast of Karachi on Wednesday night. According to police, the doctor was shot dead after he refused to surrender and tried to escape from being arrested.

On Thursday evening, Kanbar's body was handed over to his family for burial. "The family had brought the body to their native village, Janhero, for burial but a mob gathered there demanding the corpse be handed over to them," local police officer Shakoor Rasheed said. The family members escaped for their lives without carrying out the burial as the mob chased them out, Rasheed said, adding that the mob found the body in one of the cars left behind and set it on fire, he added. Earlier, the police had booked Kanbar in Umerkot town under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code for posting 'blasphemous content' on Facebook. The blasphemy case was registered against him by a cleric Sabir Soomro of a local mosque in Umerkot earlier this week after the doctor had escaped from his clinic where a mob had gathered to catch him. SHO Niaz Khoso in Sindhi, where the accused was killed, confirmed the killing of the suspect, saying the doctor had, along with his accomplices, opened fire at the police.

The doctor was shot dead in retaliatory action while his alleged accomplice escaped from the spot, Khoso claimed. PTI

In Brief

DAR ES SALAAM

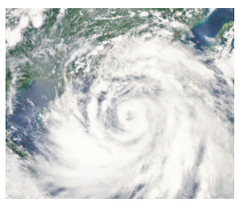
Cholera claims 3 lives

At least three people died and 84 others were taken ill following a cholera outbreak along the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Tanzania's Katavi region. Katavi Regional Medical Officer said that since the outbreak was first reported in the region two weeks ago, 19 of the 84 cholera patients have been admitted to isolated health centres, while the others were treated and discharged. IANS

YANGON

Myanmar: Toll at 293

The death toll from Myanmar's floods has risen to 293, with 89 people still missing. The floods affected dozens of townships in the regions and States across the country, including Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Xinhua news agency reported. As of Thursday morning, 161,592 flood victims from 47,019 households were taking shelters at 425 relief shelters, the report said. IANS



SEOUL

Rain alert for South Korea

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said the government raised the heavy rain warning level by one notch from "interest" to "caution", as a torrential rain advisory has been issued for the nation's central and southern regions, and the southern island of Jeju. The Ministry also activated "Level One" of the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters' emergency response posture. IANS

THE HAGUE

One killed in stabbing

One person was killed and two were seriously wounded in the stabbing incident in near the Erasmus Bridge in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Witnesses said that the suspect shouted "Allahu Akbar" when he was eventually arrested and hospitalised with another wounded person, Xinhua news agency reported quoting Dutch national broadcaster NOS. IANS

Bumrah & Co blow Bangladesh away

Team folds up for 149; India dominates with 308 run lead

Jasprit Bumrah celebrates after taking the wicket of Bangladesh's Taskin Ahmed on Day 2 of the first Test, in Chennai Friday. — Photo: PTI

IANS
CHENNAI

With their bowlers dismissing Bangladesh for just 149 after their lower order helped India post 376 in the first innings, the hosts swelled their lead to 308 to extend their dominance over the visitors on day two of the first Test at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Friday.

On a day in which 17 wickets fell, India could add just 37 runs to their overnight total in the first hour against the second new ball as their first innings ended in 91.2 overs. In reply, Jasprit Bumrah picked 4-50 in a relentless and searing bowling show to dismiss Bangladesh cheaply and help India take a 227-run lead.

As he does mostly, Bumrah was in just a different realm to be the standout bowler for India. Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep and Ravindra Jadeja complemented him by keeping the pressure on to take two scalps each as Bangladesh crumbled in the face of baptism by fire from an exceptional Indian bowling attack.

India decided not to enforce follow-on and at stumps, reached 81/3 in 23 overs of their second innings. With Shubman Gill (33 batting) and Rishabh Pant (12 batting) at the crease, India will aim to bat Bangladesh out of the game after having another brilliant day at Chepauk.

Bangladesh began Day Two by taking the second new ball and stuck to bowling at a good length area. Ravichandran Ashwin got India's innings to resume from 339/6 with a thick edge going over the slip cordon for four. Taskin struck in his second over of the day by shaping the ball into Ravindra Jadeja and taking a faint edge on his tentative poke straight to the keeper.

The dismissal of Jadeja on 86 ended his 199-run partnership with Ashwin, as the left-handed batter missed his century by 14 runs. Akash threw the kitchen sink at the balls towards him to hit four boundaries, including being dropped by Shakib Al Hasan on eight, before his slog off Taskin took a top-edge and was caught by mid-off for 17 off 30 balls. Taskin got his third wicket of the day when Ashwin didn't time his drive well and gave a catch to mid-off to fall for 113 off 133 balls and got a standing ovation from the sparse Chepauk crowd. Mahmud ended India's first innings in just over an hour of Day Two by having Bumrah edging to third slip to pick five-wicket hauls in consecutive Test matches. The pacer also became the first bowler from Bangladesh to take a five-wicket haul in Test matches in India.

Bumrah struck in the opening over as he changed his angle to come around the wicket and get one to nip back in and go past a shouldering Shadman Islam to hit the top of the off-stump. With Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj bowling attacking lengths, there was no room to breathe easy for the Bangladeshi batters.

In the final over before lunch, Akash knocked down the middle stump of Zakir Hasan with a nip-backer coming in from wide of the crease. On the very next ball, he castled Mominul Haque with a nip-backer going past the batter's forward defence to hit the off-stump. Post lunch, Siraj got a ball to hold its line and take the outside edge off Najmul Hossain Shanto's bat straight to third slip. In the next over, Bumrah bombarded Mushfiqur Rahim with questions before getting him to poke to second slip.

With the ball not doing much movement, Litton Das and Shakib Al Hasan stitched a 51-run stand for the sixth wicket. The duo brought out sumptuous drives off Bumrah, Siraj and Akash before Shakib latched on loose deliveries from Ashwin and Jadeja to get more boundaries. But in a rush of blood moment, Das tried to sweep off an outside off-stump ball from Jadeja, but it took the top edge to substitute fielder Dhruv Jurel at deep backward square leg. In Jadejaâ€™s next over, Shakib tried to reverse-sweep, but it deflected off his shoe and Rishabh Pant ran forward to take a comfortable catch.

Mahmud and Mehidy Hasan Miraz hung around for hitting three boundaries before Bumrah got the former to poke at an outside off delivery and the thick outside edge was grabbed by second slip at the stroke of tea. Shortly into the final session, Bumrah landed a perfect yorker to rattle the middle and leg stumps of Taskin, before Nahid chopped onto his stumps off Siraj to end Bangladeshâ€™s first innings at a run below 150.

In their second innings, India got going with three boundaries, before captain Rohit Sharma was dismissed cheaply as Taskin extracted an outside edge and flew to the hands of the third slip. Yashasvi Jaiswal constantly tried to play at deliveries outside off-stump and eventually nicked behind one off Rana.

Gill looked solid in his back-foot punches, pull and sweep to collect quick boundaries. But India lost Virat Kohli, who was trapped lbw while trying to clip through the on-side off Mehidy.

Interestingly, replays showed a feather edge on ultra edge, making many wonder what would have happened if Kohli had taken the review. Pant swept Shakib Al Hasan for four and followed it up by dancing down the pitch to slam a six over long-on fence to ensure India's lead crossed 300 until the second day's play ended.

Brief Scores: India 376 all out in 91.2 overs (R Ashwin 113, Ravindra Jadeja 86; Hasan Mahmud 5-83, Taskin Ahmed 3-55) and 81/3 in 23 overs (Shubman Gill 33 not out; Nahid Rana 1-12) lead Bangladesh 149 in 47.1 overs (Shakib Al Hasan 32; Jasprit Bumrah 4-50; Mohd Siraj 2-30, Akash Deep 2-19, Ravindra Jadeja 2-19) by 308 runs

In Brief

NEW DELHI

Tiwary all praise for Akash Deep

Former Indian batter Manoj Tiwary heaped praise on pacer Akash Deep for his impressive bowling skills and opined that when the right-arm pacer performs in overseas conditions, he will be standing alongside some of the great bowlers. After an impressive Test debut against England this year, Akash retained his spot in the ongoing first Test against Bangladesh, where he wreaked havoc with his pace and claimed two wickets. IANS

BERLIN

Team World beats Team Europe

Francisco Cerundolo got Team World off to a winning start at the Laver Cup with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Team Europe's Casper Ruud on Friday. The Argentinian, who is ranked No. 31, overcame five double faults to earn one point for his team at the indoor hard-court men's tournament. Ruud, a Norwegian who is ranked No. 9, made 20 unforced errors and just 11 winners. AP

THIMPHU

Winning start for India in SAFF U-17

Defending champions India made a winning start to their SAFF U17 Championship campaign as they defeated Bangladesh by a solitary goal in a Group A match at the Changlimithang Stadium on Friday. After struggling to breach a determined Bangladesh defence for the most part of the match despite complete dominance over the proceedings, defender Sumit Sharma made all the difference with a deft header. PTI

Pressure-free Ashwin wants to play with smile on face

CHENNAI

Ravichandran Ashwin prepares to bowl during the second day of the first Test match against Bangladesh, in Chennai. — Photo: AFP

Ravichandran Ashwin on Friday said he has liberated himself from the clutches of external and internal pressure, and now he is just looking to play cricket "with a smile on face." Ashwin made a back-on-the-wall hundred on the first day of the opening Test here against Bangladesh to rescue India from a precarious 144 for six in the company of an equally resolute Ravindra Jadeja.

The 38-year-old leveraged that innings to drive home the point that he now only responds to pressure situations on a cricket field, unlike in the past when he reacted to every needlepoint. "I do enjoy and embrace pressure. There's no doubt about it. It does give you opportunities to be able to be pushed to a corner and then try and respond. But I was critical too, earlier (of himself and others) because a lot of pressure has been put on me by people. I've put pressure on myself," Ashwin told reporters on Friday. "The pressure I've always responded to – in answering someone, in a performance or in a press conference. But it's not like that now. I want to play cricket with a smile on my face. I promised myself 4-5 years ago that I won't respond to anyone, and I've been maintaining that till now," he added.

The mental detachment to situations and people around him has helped Ashwin to clearly demarcate between his primary and secondary suits – bowling and batting. "Bowling and batting are very separate sports in the same game. One is done consciously, and the other one is done subconsciously. "For me to compartmentalise both has taken its own due and at this stage, I'm able to sequence that and split both of them," he began. So, how did he keep his focus on the batting during his 189-minute innings, spanning over three sessions and consuming 240 balls? Ashwin took precisely the opposite route that he would have taken as a bowler. "The mind can play tricks because I'm a bowler who plays on 12-18 balls or 24 balls ahead when I'm sequencing it. But as a batter, I shouldn't do that. So, I just used my experience to focus on the ball and hitting it as I see it," he noted.

The Chennai man also said he worked on his batting in the last three years to add more layers to it, so that he can be more versatile from a team perspective. "So, I have worked a lot (on his batting)... quite a lot on how I can maximise my shots, maximise my game, work on how I can play fast bowling, all that sort of stuff. So, glad it's coming out nicely. I am pretty content with what's happening."

The fructification of his efforts has also left him at a happy space – personally as well as professionally, and he enjoys that a lot in the highly competitive world of modern sport. "You feel happy about it, having been in a contest and coming out successful out of the contest. So, yeah, the underlying truth is that it gives me a lot of happiness competing in this game. "This is just a vehicle for me to compete and feel good about myself and be happy at the end of the day," he elaborated. PTI

Jaddu eyes 300 Test wickets

CHENNAI

Ravindra Jadeja was a happy man to bag two wickets on the second day of the first Test against Bangladesh here on Friday.

"I got out today but it's part and parcel of the game. Now we have to put up a good score on the board in the second innings. I am very happy with my bowling, the way I went through today," said Jadeja after the end of play on Friday. The all-rounder is four wickets away from claiming 300 Test scalps and feels that he has the chance to achieve the feat on Saturday. "It's a good opportunity to take the 300th wicket on this ground." Jadeja added that the team will look to swell their lead further to give a massive target to the opponents. IANS

'We lost too many wickets in 10 overs'

CHENNAI

Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed on Friday admitted that losing too many wickets in the first 10 overs of their first innings against "world class" Indian bowlers has put his side on the back foot in the opening Test against India here. "Overall, our batting was a little bit disappointing. Yeah, there is some help for the fast bowlers, but still, we could have done much better than that. So yeah, we are disappointed," Ahmed said at the press conference after the day's play.

"We also lost too many wickets in the first 10 (overs), which cost us our game." Ahmed, who took three wickets in India's first innings and one in the second, also felt that his side's less experience of playing with the SG balls did not help their cause either. Bangladesh players are mostly used to playing with the Kookaburra balls which have a flatter seam compared to the SG. "Also, playing with the SG ball is a challenge. The Indians play with SG ball since childhood, so they know how to use it properly, giving them a huge advantage," said the 29-year-old right-arm pacer. "We also made some mistakes with the new ball. What I felt about the SG ball and this condition is that there were some challenges, especially for the first 10-12 overs. "India is a formidable side against any opponent at home. And everyone tries to make the most out of the home advantage, the same as we will do when we play at home soon." As far as bowling is concerned, he said his side bowled well overall. PTI

Sri Lanka takes 202-run lead against New Zealand at Galle

GALLE (SRI LANKA)

Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne during his 83-run knock on Day 3 of the first Test against New Zealand at Galle, on Friday. — Photo: AFP

After a tense battle to open the first test between Sri Lanka and New Zealand, the hosts are feeling in control as they finished day three at 237-4 to lead by 202 runs with six wickets in hand.

Half-centuries from former captains Dimuth Karunaratne (83) and Dinesh Chandimal (61) steadied the Sri Lankan innings after Pathum Nissanka fell cheaply in the third over. The two seasoned players navigated challenging moments on a pitch that is increasingly difficult to bat on, with the ball spinning and bouncing as it typically does in Galle. The second-wicket partnership between Chandimal and Karunaratne was worth 147 runs and could prove crucial to the match. While Sri Lanka's batters handled spin well, they struggled against pace. They had already succumbed to a five-wicket haul from right-arm quick William O'Rourke in the first innings, and he was again in the thick of it, finishing with three wickets in the second innings. Ajaz Patel made the breakthrough by cleaning up Karunaratne. O'Rourke then had Chandimal caught at leg slip in the next over and followed it up by dismissing first innings centurion Kamindu Mendis, who, like Nissanka, was caught at slip, both batters troubled by the extra bounce generated by O'Rourke.

Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva and Angelo Mathews were involved in an unfinished 59-run stand for the fifth wicket, surviving some tense moments. New Zealand bowled to attacking fields but shifted to a more defensive approach once the lead exceeded 150, keen to protect boundaries. Play began 15 minutes early on Friday to make up for lost time due to rain, with Daryl Mitchell posting a half-century alongside Tom Latham and Kane Williamson. AP

Duleep Trophy: Abhimanyu scores another ton

ANANTAPUR

India B skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran's on his away to 116 against India D in the Duleep Trophy game at Anantapur.

The uber-talented Sanju Samson completed his 11th first-class hundred before Arshdeep Singh showed his wares with the semi-new ball as India D held sway over India B on the second day of their final Duleep Trophy round-robin league match here on Friday.

India D scored 349 in 87.3 overs in their first innings while India B was not very comfortably placed at 210 for 6 when stumps were drawn despite skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran's (116) second hundred of the tournament. The hundred happens to be Easwaran's 25th in first-class cricket. Suryakumar Yadav, the India T20 captain, who missed the first couple of rounds due to a finger injury, didn't last long, managing only five before he was dismissed by the opposition team's best bowler Arshdeep (3/30 in 12 overs). Samson, who smashed his way to an unbeaten 89 on the opening day, knocked off the required 11 runs as his 106 off 101 deliveries comprised 12 boundaries and three huge sixes. Starting the day at 306 for 5, India D didn't last long despite Samson's ton as the last five wickets fell with the addition of 43 runs with the bulk of the damage being done by Delhi speedster Navdeep Saini. Saini (5/74 in 18.3 overs), who wasn't initially picked in any of the squads, is showing renewed purpose as he grabbed his sixth five-for in first-class cricket and his first in quite some time. With 11 scalps in three games so far, Saini seemed to have once again made his way back into the notebook of the selectors. When India B batted, it was Easwaran, who looked cut above the rest during his 170-ball knock that had 13 fours and a six. Having scored 157 not out in the previous game, Easwaran, 29, will keep the five wise men interested in him. While India B was placed well at 88 for 2, Arshdeep who came back for his second spell first found Musheer Khan (5) plumb in front. Suryakumar lasted merely 15 balls with Aditya Thakare holing him out off Arshdeep's bowling. PTI

Avesh, Aaqib put India A on top against India C

ANANTAPUR: Pacer Avesh Khan sparkled with a gritty unbeaten half-century before taking the prized-scalp of Ishan Kishan as India A mounted a strong challenge against India C on day two of the Duleep Trophy final-round match here on Friday. The 27-year-old Avesh, who has represented India in eight ODIs and 23 T20Is so far, hammered five fours and four sixes in a 68-ball 51 not out while batting at No. 9, propelling India A to 297.

In response, India C faced a top-order collapse as youngster Aaqib Khan (3/43) and Avesh (1/52) tore through their lineup. Aaqib, the 20-year-old pacer from Uttar Pradesh, was particularly impressive as he dismissed Ruturaj Gaikwad and Rajat Patidar off successive deliveries. At stumps, India C were 216 for 7, trailing by 81 runs and struggling to take a first-innings lead in the four-day encounter. India C currently lead the points table with 9 points, followed by India B (7) and India A (6), with the top team after this round set to claim the Duleep Trophy title.

Meanwhile, Shashwat Rawat's resolute knock came to an end for 124 (250 balls) after he managed to add just two runs to his overnight total. A crucial 42-run partnership between Avesh and Prasidh Krishna (34 off 39) then took India A forward. Avesh then went on to complete his second first-class half-century, boosting the team's total. Vyshak Vijaykumar was the pick of the bowlers for India C, claiming 4/51, while Anshul Kamboj (3/49) and Gaurav Yadav (2/57) provided valuable support. India C crumbled under the fiery pace of Aaqib, who rattled the top order with crucial wickets of skipper Gaikwad (17) and Rajat Patidar, the latter falling for a golden duck. PTI

Inter hold Man City in surprise draw

Play out 0-0 game in their Champions League opener

AP
GENEVA

Where did all the goals go? The 0-0 draws between Manchester City and Inter Milan in their rematch of the 2023 final, after Bologna and Shakhtar Donetsk also could not find a goal, capped an untypically goal-shy evening for the Champions League on Wednesday.

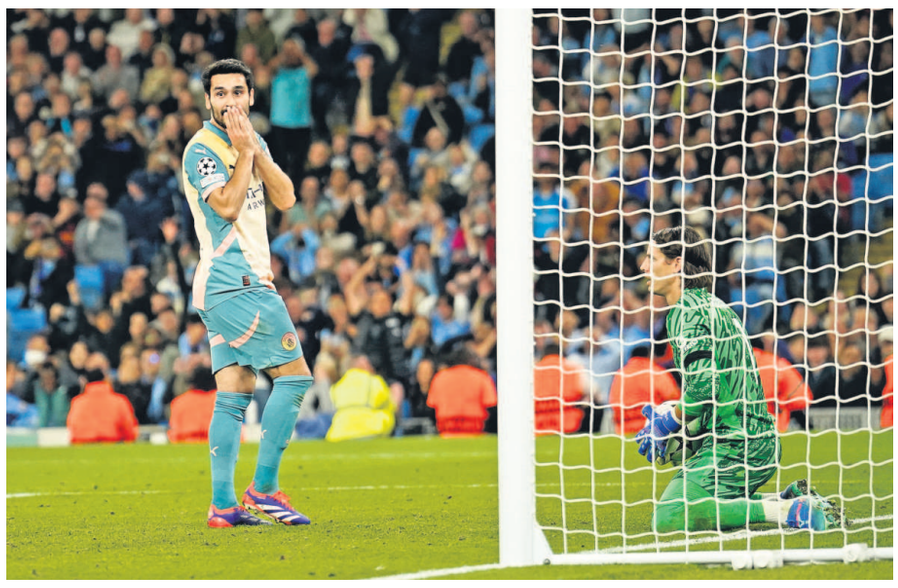
Just 13 were scored in six games one day after 28 were fired on Tuesday, including nine by Bayern Munich alone. How unusual was this? Two 0-0 draws after just 12 of 144 games to be played in the new league phase is already halfway to the total of four in 96 games one year ago in the group-stage format that is now abolished. The entire competition averaged three goals per game last season.

Paris Saint-Germain and Girona also were heading for a blank until a horrible 90th-minute error by the Spanish debutant's goalkeeper, Paulo Gazzaniga — spilling a cross by Nuno Mendes through his own legs — gifted a 1-0 win. Borussia Dortmund needed late goals from substitutes Jamie Gittens, twice, and Serhou Guirassy with a stoppage-time penalty to win 3-0 at Club Brugge.

Sparta Prague rose to the challenge of its first game in 19 years at this stage of the Champions League by beating Salzburg 3-0. Bologna waited 60 years to return and deserved more for its attacking ambition against Champions League veteran Shakhtar.

The Ukrainian champion had a penalty saved in the fourth minute by Bologna goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski. Slovan Bratislava was overmatched in its first game since 1992-93, the first season of the Champions League rebrand from the old European Cup, and with Georgia defender Guram Kashia making his competition debut at age 37.

They could not keep out Celtic, which won 5-1 in Glasgow. Ireland internationals Liam Scales and Adam Idah, Japan forwards Kyogo Furuhashi and Daizen Maeda, and Arne Engels of Belgium scored for the champion of Scotland.



Inter Milan's goalkeeper Yann Sommer (right) makes a save as Manchester City's Ilkay Gundogan, left, reacts after missing scoring opportunity during their Champions League match. —Photo: AP/PTI

Man City held at home

There was nothing to separate the champions of England and Italy, 15 months after Man City beat Inter 1-0 in Istanbul to lift the European Cup trophy for the first time. Ilkay Gundogan wasted two late chances for manager Pep Guardiola's team, failing to convert two-headed chances.

It was the first time City had failed to score at home in Europe's elite tournament since being held 0-0 by Sporting Lisbon in March 2022, and just the second time at home in all competitions since then. The other was a 0-0 draw with Arsenal in the Premier League in March.

Nalgonda's Dathu wins long jump title

Kalyani clinches 800m race in 10th Telangana Junior Athletics Championship

SPORTS BUREAU
Hyderabad

Sapavath Dathu of Nalgonda soared to victory with a jump of 6.69m, claiming first place in the long jump event of the boys' 18 years old category at the 10th Telangana State Junior Athletics Championships, organised by the Telangana Athletic Association and Sports Authority of Telangana at Osmania University Synthetic Athletics Track, Hyderabad, on Thursday.

Dathu edged out Khammam's Kalthi Ashok, who jumped 6.67m, and Ranga Reddy's Pathlouth Subbu, with 6.13m. In the 800m race of girls' 20 years old, Suryapet's D Kalyani clocked 2:35.9 to win, ahead of Bhadradri Kothagudem's M Tabu (3:01.6) and Nirmal's Maddi Pooja (3:09.9), who finished in second and third places.

Sapavath Dathu

D Kalyani

RESULTS:
Race Walk: 5000m: 18 Yrs Boys: 1. Yedla Sai Charan Reddy (Nizambad) (32:31s), 2. P Jagan (Medchal) (37:22.1s), 3. Athmakuri Saikarteek (Khammam) (38:18s); Race Walk: 10000m: 20 Yrs Boys: 1. E Vishnu Vardhan (Karimnagar) (50:25:8s), 2. Dharmveer Singh (TAA) (50:54:9s), 3. P Abdul Kareem Basha (Jogulamba Gadwal) (01:22.21s); 1000m Race: 18 Yrs Girls: 1. Kodavath Swapna (Nagarkurnool) (3:02.9s), 2. A Akhila (Nalgonda) (3:05.0s), 3. M Gauri Priya (Ranga Reddy) (3:14.6s); 800m Race: 20 Yrs Girls: 1. D Kalyani (Suryapet) (2:35.9s), 2. M Tabu (Bhadradri Kothagud)(3:01.6s),3. Maddi Pooja (Nirmal) (3:09.9s); Shot Put: 18 Yrs: Girls: 1. G Siri Reddy (Ranga Reddy) (11.44m), 2. Kaniganti Rajarajeswari (Nagarkurnool) (10.82m), 3. M Akshaya Sindhu (Jangaon) (9.52m); Shot Put: 20 Yrs: Girls: 1. Narala Buchamma (Nagarkurnool) (8.93m), 2. Mandali Ramya Sri (Mahabubnagar) (7.90m), 3. A Lakshmi Prasanna (Hanumakonda) (5.83m); Long Jump: 18 Yrs: Boys: 1. Sapavath Dathu (Nalgonda) (6.69m), 2. Kalthi Ashok (Khammam) (6.67m), 3. Pathlouth Subbu (Ranga Reddy) (6.13m); Long Jump: 20 Yrs: Boys: 1. O Nagnath (Nizambad) (6.11m), 2. Renish Ratnani (Medchal) (5.82m), 3. B Sri Charan (Jangaon) (5.81m); Discus Throw: 18 Yrs: Girls: 1. G Siri Reddy (Ranga Reddy) (27.56m), 2. M Akshaya Sindhu (Jangaon) (20.98m), 3. Pathar Akuppa Manaswini (Hyderabad) (20.57m).

In Brief

HYDERABAD

SFA Pro kicks off in Hyd from Oct 15

The inaugural edition of Sports For All (SFA)'s PRO will take place in Hyderabad from October 15-30, featuring top athletes in athletics, basketball, football, table tennis, badminton, chess, swimming, and tennis. SFA PRO is open to district, state, national-level athletes and standout performers in previous SFA Championships. For registrations log into www.SFAPLAY.com.

HYDERABAD

Softball selections from today

The selection trials for the Hyderabad softball team for boys and girls will be held on at Victory Play Ground, Chadarghat, Koti Hyderabad at 3 pm on September 20. The selected players will represent the team in the 10th Telangana State Junior Inter-District Softball Championship from September 21.

HYDERABAD

RK Black Diamonds triumph

RK Black Diamonds edged out Large Complex Football Club 4-3 in a thrilling tie-breaker to win the All India Jewellery Handmade Workers Federation (Bengal)'s one-day Football Tournament, held at Gymkhana Ground, Secunderabad on Wednesday. Result:Final: RK Black Diamonds 4 bt Large Complex Football Club 3 (In tie-break).

Man City's trophy tour in India

NEW DELHI

Manchester City, who rewrote the history books by winning the English Premier League four times in a row in 2023-24, have arrived in Indian capital city as part of the club's Champions 4-in-a-row Trophy Tour.

To celebrate this historic achievement, Manchester City have brought the Premier League trophy to New Delhi, alongside the Club World Cup and Community Shield trophies. The trophies will be accompanied by former Manchester City and England winger Shaun Wright-Phillips across a range of activities for Cityzens in India. Speaking on the visit as a whole, Club Legend Wright-Phillips said, "We're really looking forward to visiting India as part of the Club's Champions 4-in-a-row tour. We're excited to interact with our fan base in India again." IANS

Manish dazzles with 6-wkt haul

SPORTS BUREAU
Hyderabad

D Manish's impressive 6/15 powered Team C to a commanding 164-run victory over Team B in the HCA Men's U-19 Junior Zonals (Vinoo Mankad Trophy Probables) Tournament in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Team C set a competitive target, posting 275/9 in their 50 overs, with Siddharth Rao and M Karthik contributing crucial knocks of 83 and 64 runs respectively. Wafi Kachchhi (3/45) and Srikhar (3/83) stood out among the bowlers. Later, Manish's exceptional bowling effort helped his team bowl out Team B for a mere 111 in 28.2 overs, sealing the win.

In the other matches, Team A and Team F registered victories.

BRIEF SCORES:
HCA Men's U-19 Junior Zonals (Vinoo Mankad Trophy Probables): Team C 275/9 in 50 overs (Siddharth Rao 83, M Karthik 64, Wafi Kachchhi 3/45, Srikhar 3/83) bt Team B 111 in 28.2 overs (D Rohit 39, D Manish 6/15); Team A 320 in 49.4 overs (Aaron George 58, J Anudeep 80, Yashveer 3/41) bt Team E 256/7 in 50 overs (P Koushik 50, Yashveer 43, Urvesh Kakkad 3/46); Team F 231/9 in 50 overs (Syed Hidayath Hussain 66, Avik Dixit 3/24) bt Team D 172 in 47.3 overs (SM Hussain 77, Rishit 4/30); **HCA Women's Seniors & U-23 Zonals (T20):** Team C 96/5 in 20 overs (A Semwal 38) lost to Team A 97/3 in 19.4 overs (Anuradha Nayak 49, T Chandana 34).

Rashmikaa, Tenika storm into semis

SPORTS BUREAU
Hyderabad

Hyderabad tennis player Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty, along with her Australian partner Tenika McGiffin, extended their impressive form to reach the doubles semifinals of the ITF Women's World Tennis Tour, W75 Perth ($60,000) in Australia on Thursday.

In a closely contested quarterfinal, they overcame the Australian duo Chelsea Stergiopoulos and Belle Thompson 7-6, 3-6, 10-4 to secure a place in the last four. Meanwhile, in the singles event, Rashmikaa cruised into the quarterfinals with a dominant 6-1, 6-1 victory over Australia's Melisa Ercan in the pre-quarterfinals.

RESULTS: Quarterfinals: Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty (IND)/Tenika McGiffin (AUS) bt Chelsea Stergiopoulos (AUS)/Belle Thompson (AUS) 7-6, 3-6, 10-4.

Horoscope

J U B Sastry

ARIES
Aries (March 21-April 20)
The day will energise your thinking and give new momentum to love matters. As Mars tries to draw new energy in debilitation zone, you will find elders supporting you on love matters and giving a new fillip to future plans. If you have not yet entered a love zone, you may find reasons to do so. You may come across tempting situations at home or outside.

TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)
You will feel elated as you think nothing can stop you from moving ahead with your initiatives. Despite the positive attitude, you will find a deterrent in spouse who can successfully implant a plethora of suspicions in your mind. Seeds of suspicion may force you to hesitate to make a step forward. In a nutshell, nothing may move forward for you.

GEMINI
(May 22- June 21)
You may feel that you are highly influential and most sought-after person in your sphere of activity. You may begin with a bout of suspicions as you find your confidence going down for several reasons. You will feel that you have become weaker by others' actions. Your efforts to give a commercial touch to initiatives may fail.

CANCER
(June 22- July 22)
You may be a youngster preparing for academic or competitive examinations with future planning. If you are participating in literary or academic talent tests, the day can produce disappointing results to the core. People close to your heart and family members may have formed high expectations over your performance. You may disappoint them with a low-profile performance.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 23)
You may apply your own logic to take key decisions. While you may not reveal the reasoning for your decisions, people around will see their own logic and read their own meanings. But it seems you are not caring much for others' views in any way. You may have a hectic day with meetings and reviews at the workplace and arrival of guests at home.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
The day's celestial influences are powerful enough to bring you out of fear complex. You might be worried on several counts including the health of your father or a fatherly person at home. But the trine relationship between Venus and Jupiter will fetch you good news and you will have a sigh of relief. Short-distance travels are on cards.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)
With Mercury still keeping company of Sun in Virgo, optimism may hit your thought process. But don't let negative feelings dominate it as it pushes you towards depression. The day may begin with a dull note for you due to misunderstandings and misconceptions but that shouldn't be the reason to kill enthusiasm. Try to be practical to the core.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
You will feel that your financial status is under squeeze and you may curse the adverse scenario around you. But, with Venus moving with Southern Node, this may not be uncommon for people like you. What is important is you may think of depending on gambling or other activity with speculative nature to free from financial squeeze. But there may be more trouble.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)
As Mars still moves in debilitation zone squared by Nodes, you will regain your courage and confidence. You may be emboldened with feelings of enjoying more freedom and authority at the workplace. But you are advised to move with caution. Be conscious of your limitations also apart from the powers bestowed by higher-ups. Exercise powers only when needed.

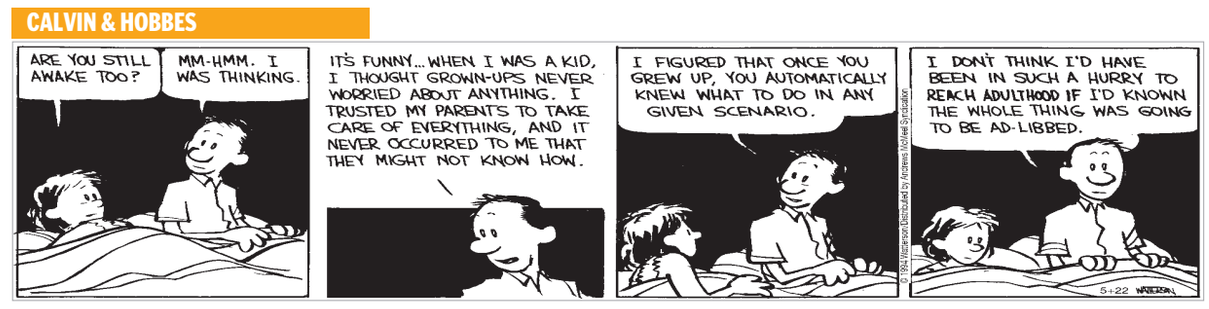
CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)
You may become envious of friends or cousins getting recognition in society or elevation at the workplace. With Venus keeping company of Southern Node, you may become uncomfortable in mind on hearing something great about them. In fact, you may not be fully antagonistic towards them but somehow, you can't digest the development. Try to see reason.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)
Your association with people with questionable credentials will grow further and you may allow yourself to be dragged deep into the muddle. You are, perhaps, influenced by a strong desire to indulge in some sort of prohibited activities. You may be fully aware that you are at fault even as you don't mind going ahead with your activities.

PISCES
(Feb. 20-March 20)
It can be a dull day for you at the workplace with additional loads of work seeking your intervention. Somebody might be seeking to test your patience and the day's developments could be part of this game. But try to be diplomatic if you want the day to be productive and peaceful. Don't let your hard feelings come out to keep others guessing. You may visit spiritual places.

COMIC STRIPS

CALVIN & HOBBES



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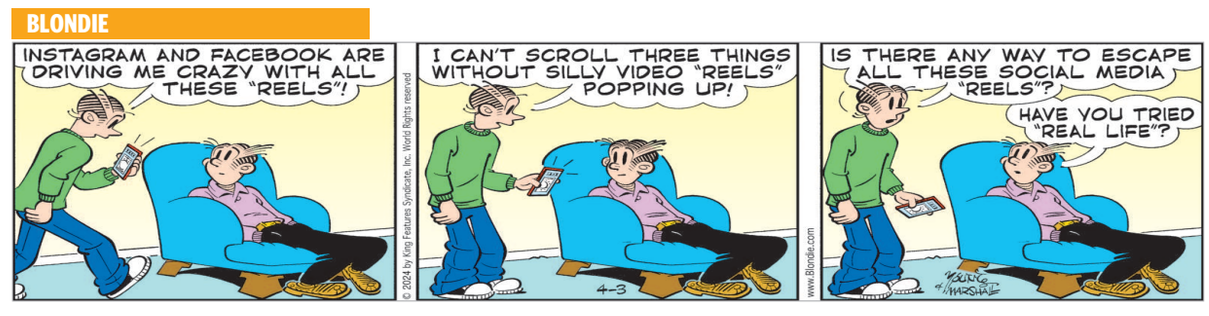
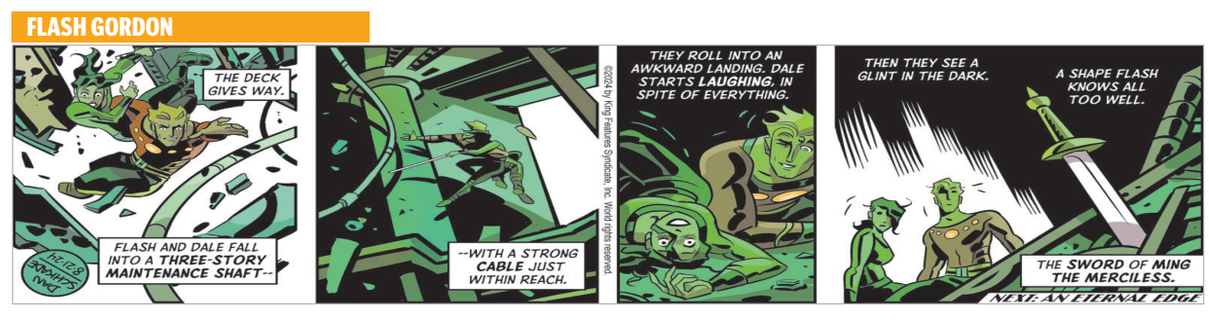
FLASH GORDON